FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 060 *28 March 1983*

ARGENTINA

Bombs Found, Deactivated in British Schools B 1
St John's British School Denies Bomb Threat B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 27 Mar]
Strike Being Complied With 'About 90 Percent' B 1
Interior Ministry's Security Measures B 2
Labor Ministry Communique B 2
Government Declaration B 3
Bignone Calls LA SEMANA Issue Provocative B 3
Journalists Released B 3
Asylum for Fontevecchia B 4
Junta Adopts Resolution on Institutional Acts B 4
Peron's Sentence Expires, Restrictions Remain B 4
Foreign Minister on Group of 77 Meeting B 5
Chamber of Commerce Notes Economic Recovery B 5
Multiparty Group Solves Internal Differences B 6
Galtieri Testifies in Probe of Falklands War B 6
Colonel Cesio Punished With 45-Day Sentence B 6

BOLIVIA

Interior Minister Roncal Says Situation Normal C 1
Armed Forces Commander Denies Conspiracy Rumors C 1
Government Demands Greater Control of Arce Gomez C 1
President Siles Zuazo Leaves for Paris Visit C 2
Comibol Mission Officials Negotiate in Moscow C 2

CHILE

250 Arrested in Riots in Santiago, Valparaiso E 1
Montero on Riots, Arrested Priests E 1
Santiago Subway Train Bombed E 2
Valparaiso Street Disturbances Reported E 2
Martin, Ayala Receive PRC Trade Delegation E 2

COLOMBIA

FARC Asks Guerrilla Groups To Release Hostages F 1
Labor, Student Disturbances F 1
Foreign Minister Pays 3-Day Visit to Egypt F 2
[cross-reference]

PERU

Police Identify Shining Path Deputy Chief J 1
[EXPRESO 14 Mar]
Shining Path Kill Members of Paramilitary Group J 1
[EL DIARIO DE LA MARKA 18 Mar]
Security Forces Reportedly Kill 18 Terrorists J 1
State of Emergency Declared in 8 Provinces J 2
Bill Sent to Congress in Wake of Strike J 2
[EL OBSERVADOR 12 Mar]

VENEZUELA

Defense Minister Denies Rumors of Army Unrest L 1
President on Coup Rumors, Economic Situation L 1
Prisoners' Relatives Occupy Swedish Embassy L 2
More on Occupation L 2
Occupation Ends L 3
Finance Ministry Suspends Capital Payments L 3

MEXICO

OLADE to Continue Cooperation With Area Nations M 1
San Jose Energy Accord Revalidation Affirmed M 1
U.S. Accused of Waging Bacteriological War M 1
[St Georges]
Labastida on Oil Market, Multinational Firm M 2

PANAMA

Paredes Meets With Corregimiento Representatives N 1
PCC Officials Allegedly Holding Arms Cache N 2
[THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC 27 Mar]
Costa Rican President, Delegation To Arrive 7 Apr N 2
[STAR AND HERALD 27 Mar]
Venezuelan Official Says No Change in Aid N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Ministers Meeting With Nicaragua To Be Proposed P 1

EL SALVADOR

Defense Minister Reportedly To Resign 30 March P 1
Police Cite Arrest of Two Foreign Reporters P 1
Journalists Reportedly Released P 2
Army, Rebel Clashes Reportedly Leave 22 Dead P 2
Venceremos Rejects Government's Amnesty Offer P 2

GUATEMALA

Foreign Minister Says Country's Image Improved P 3
Official on Government Call for Elections P 3
MLN Hints at Willingness To Participate in Coup P 3
ORPA Airs Call Over Radio Nuevo Mundo Frequency P 4

HONDURAS

Newsman Reports Nicaraguan Troops Fire on Towns P 4
Government Denies Clash With Nicaraguan Forces P 4
Government Notes Nicaraguan Internal Dissidence P 5
Communique Denounces Expulsions From Nicaragua P 6
Paz Barnica on Foreign Relations, Charges at UN P 6
Communist Party on Possible War With Nicaragua [Managua] P 8

NICARAGUA

Daniel Ortega on Trip to Nonaligned, Moscow P 10
Ortega-Andropov Meeting Cited P 11
Fighting Continues in Nueva Segovia Department P 12
Foreign Ministry Reports Rancho Grande Attack P 13
French Doctor Casualty P 14
Two Dead, Two Wounded in State Farm Robbery P 14
Border Talks With Costa Rica Planned for 4 Apr P 15
Havana Cites Borge on Reagan Accusations P 15
Reagan Seen Demonstrating 'U.S. Espionage' P 15
Editorial on Quainton Speech to Business Group P 16
[BARRICADA 20 Mar]
Support in UN Against U.S. 'Aggression' Cited P 17
Station Says Pastora To Issue Command 'Soon' P 17
[Voice of Free Nicaragua]
Pastora Will Not Wage Border War, Say Aides P 17
[Voice of Free Nicaragua]
Rebels Say FSLN Planning To Freeze Accounts P 18
[Voice of Free Nicaragua]

CUBA

Havana on Reagan's 'Defeats' in Congress Q 1
Country 'Well-Armed,' UN Delegation Warns Q 3
Fidel Castro Receives PDRY Defense Minister Q 4
Havana on U.S. 'Espionage Ring' in Area Q 4
GRANMA Editorial on Origin of A.I.D.S. Ailment Q 5
[GRANMA 26 Mar]
Milian Castro Decorated With USSR Medal Q 6
Vietnamese Delegation Visits ANAP Offices Q 7
Gen Batista Santana Closes CDR-FAR Front Seminar Q 7
International Health Meetings To Be Held Q 8
Veiga, USSR Ambassador Katushev Hold Talks Q 8
Dominican Left Delegation Holds Press Conference Q 8

CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Economy Records 2.5 Percent Growth for 1982 S 1

BAHAMAS

Pindling Defends Bank Secrecy, Rejects Treaty S 1

GRENADA

Official Note to OAS Protests U.S. Charges S 2
Bishop Views 'Attacks' as Changed U.S. Tactics S 4
Army Requests Bird Guns, Air Rifles for Training S 4
Coard Cites Reagan's 'Low Credibility' in U.S. S 4
Station Views U.S. Maneuvers, Pilot Warnings S 5
Security Forces Detain 5 Men on Illegal Entry S 5

JAMAICA

Third World Caucus, Group of 77 on LOS Signing S 6

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Leftist Party Condemns Nicaraguan Invasion S 7

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Steel Company Gets Large Contract From FRG S 7

BOMBS FOUND, DEACTIVATED IN BRITISH SCHOOLS

PY260134 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0002 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (DYN) -- Police sources confirmed in Buenos Aires tonight that two bombs were found between yesterday and today in British schools in the northern zone of greater Buenos Aires. These bombs were deactivated before they could go off.

Today the police had to deactivate a bomb at the Saint John School in Martinez Neighborhood. A telephone call had warned the authorities about the presence of a bomb. This situation forced the immediate suspension of classes and the police were called.

A similar situation was experienced at Saint Patrick's School in the neighborhood of Acassuso. The bomb was also deactivated here. Last week an anonymous caller read an alleged communique from the "2 April" Group, "Captain Giacchino Command." The caller warned British schools to stop their activities in Argentina before the end of March.

ST. JOHN'S BRITISH SCHOOL DENIES BOMB THREAT

PY280231 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Mar 83 p 13

[Text] St John's School yesterday denied press reports that a bomb had been defused by the police at the school premises in Martinez on Thursday after anonymous telephone warnings. The vice chariman of the school board told the HERALD on the phone last night: "There have been no threats, let alone bombs being defused." The vice chairman said the reports had caused "unnecessary alarm among parents sending their children to the school."

Nevertheless, the DYN news agency reported late on Friday night and early in the day yesterday that children attending the English bilingual St John's and St Patrick's Schools had had to be taken home early the morning after bombs were found in the premises. The report added that both bombs were defused by the police after an anonymous caller warned the schools that the bombs had been planted. Buenos Aires Provincial Police denied the existence of the bombs but admitted both northern suburbs schools had received threats, according to DYN.

Last week, an anonymous caller claiming to belong to the previously unknown April-2 or C-2 Direct Action Commando told DYN the group would take action against schools with British ties in Argentina. The group, which said it aims at recovering the Malvinas Islands "by any means," also claimed responsibility for letter bombs sent to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and a US Navy building in central London last week.

STRIKE BEING COMPLIED WITH 'ABOUT 90 PERCENT'

PY281256 [Editorial report] Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1120 GMT on 28 March reports that "in Mendoza City the nationwide stoppage is being complied with approximately 90 percent," and adds that no public transportation is available, the banks have not opened and the local newspapers have not been published.

The same source at 1121 GMT on 28 March states that "the stoppage is absolute in Cordoba City since there is no public transportation and the factories are not working." It adds that there are no newspapers and only the most essential medical services are being supplied.

NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS at 1137 GMT says that the strike is being obeyed "99 percent" in Bahia Blanca where "there is no public transportation, no activities at the municipal officies" and the stores remain closed.

At 1200 GMT NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS indicates that the strike is being "totally obeyed in La Plata City where there is no public transportation, no newspapers or magazines are being sold" and the city looks like it usually does on holidays. Only high-ranking public officials have come to work, the agency reports.

Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 0902 GMT On 28 March reports that in Resistencia the strike is approximately 60 percent effective. "Confusion prevails," DYN says among civil servants, "50 percent of whom have not come to work." There is no transportation or newspapers and the provincial government has issued a communique "guaranteeing order and safeguards for private and public workers willing to come to work," the news agency reports.

The same source at 1230 GMT states that in Rosario the stoppage is "practically general and no transportation or industrial or commercial activity is noticeable." The two local newspapers have not been published and not even the taxi cabs are working, it says.

Interior Ministry's Security Measures

PY262103 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] The Interior Ministry has reiterated that it has ordered the implementation of security measures to safeguard domestic peace, to guarantee freedom to work and to safeguard public transport. At the same time it points out that it has also ordered the implementation of measures and actions to enforce laws which repress coersive measures which represent a threat to peace and domestic security.

Labor Ministry Communique

PY262213 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] The Labor Ministry has issued a communique on the strike which the two largest labor unions have scheduled for Monday. The text of the communique points that the Labor Ministry, in view of the announced strike ordered by various labor unions, deems it its duty to advise workers and labor union leaders to reflect on the seriousness of the adopted measures. The communique then points out that, within the framework of the current crisis, it is difficult to question the efforts being made to meet the most legitimate and urgent requests made by the labor unions. The Labor Ministry communique continues to state that the measures ordered by the labor unions represent serious obstacles for the achievement of an ever-increasing harmonious coexistence, which Argentina urgently requires, especially when taking into account the institutionalization of the country, which the government and various sectors have voiced their full agreement. The achievement of this plan requires the harmonious development of all sectors of the Argentine community. The Labor Ministry communique ends by pointing out that measures similar to the one announced, in addition to hampering the chances of finding solutions to the unions' demands, could lead to situations that violate the laws and which this ministry feels should be prevented.

Government Declaration

PY272226 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1850 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (NA) -- Today the government declared the 24-hour stoppage that has been called for tomorrow by the two main unions illegal, because it considers that the strike violates Law No 21,400, which applies severe measures against those who hold strikes or other measures of force.

Today through a brief communique, the Labor Ministry announced that "since it is not in keeping with the norms and procedures related to the right to hold strikes, the stoppage called for tomorrow is declared illegal." The communique is signed by the Labor Ministry press office chief and it is registered under number: "Information 470/18."

BIGNONE CALLS LA SEMANA ISSUE PROVOCATIVE

PY271954 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1803 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (TELEM) -- President Reynaldo Bignone today called the contents of the latest issue of LA SEMANA provocative, and added that the government will use all the means at hand, and in this case the provisions of the state of siege will allow us to reach with dignity the elections to be held on 30 October 1983.

The president made these remarks to reporters after visiting, with Education Minister Cayetano Licciardo, the remodeled teacher's library and before lunching with members of the Federal Council of Culture and Education, at the Foreign Ministry.

Regarding the announced national strike, President Bignone stated that the government will continue on its way and will adopt appropriate measures to guarantee the freedom to work. It will adopt all measures at hand to make sure that the hard-working people will not be harmed, although there are those who say that they will benefit from this type of action, but who in reality will be hurt.

Regarding the magazine LA SEMANA, Bignone said that all previous warnings have been ignored, and that the government has an obligation, because it feels that it is mandatory to reach the established goal, so the people can elect a government on 30 October. To reach this goal, we are going to use all the means at hand, he stated, and in this case, the power granted to us by the provisions of the state of siege, because obviously all advice, all warnings in this regard have not been heeded, and these publications insist on creating provocations. He also said taht this is no longer just criticism. We accept and allow criticisms and we have received them with all possible tolerance, but this is simply a provocation and it must be stopped somehow. He concluded by saying that we have a very clear objective, and we want to get there with dignity so that the people can elect a government they want.

Journalists Released

PY251530 Paris AFP in Spanish 1427 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (AFP) -- The approximately 100 journalists, including two Spaniards and private citizens, detained by the police in the Perfil Publishing House last night, were released without problems early this morning. The police operation, which lasted 4 hours, was set up to capture Jorge Fontevecchia, director of the publishing house and LA SEMANA magazine which was confiscated for discrediting the image of the Armed Forces.

When Fontevecchia escaped through a side door, all personnel and vistors in the building were detained, including AFP editor Juse Luis Alvarez Fermosel and Carlos Cabeza Minarro, Perfil stringers. One of the detained persons said that the police treatment was correct, and that they were authorized to leave the building after their personal files were checked.

Asylum for Fontevecchia

PY262117 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1304 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA) -- Venezuelan Ambassador to Argentina Jorge Daguer has granted political asylum to Jorge Fontevecchia, editor and director of the magazine LA SEMANA. The ambassador himself confirmed this today to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS. Daguer said that the Argentine Foreign Ministry has already been informed about this decision, which now must be ratified by the Venezuelan Government headed by Luis Herrera Campins. In a telephone conversation with NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the Venezuelan ambassador said that once the asylum is confirmed, the Argentine Government will be notified to grant the appropriate safeconduct to allow the journalist to leave the country.

JUNTA ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON INSTITUTIONAL ACTS

PY251528 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The military junta today "adopted resolutions regarding draft bills on the struggle against subversion and the institutional act that prohibit former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron and other Justicialist leaders from carrying out political activities. The text of the communique is as follows:

"The military junta held a meeting today at the Libertador Building, the Army headquarters. The meeting was attended by Army Commander Cristino Nicolaides, Navy Commander Ruben Oscar Franco and Air Force Commander Augusto Jorge Hughes. During the meeting, which started at 0930, the junta studied and adopted resolutions regarding draft bills concerning the war against subversion and terrorism and concerning the institutional acts issued on 18 July 1976 and another one that was issued this year. The junta also discussed the aforementioned acts. The junta exchanged opinions about the situation created by the floods and government measures that will be adopted in this regard with the president and the interior minister who joined the meeting later. The meeting ended at 1800."

PERON'S SENTENCE EXPIRES, RESTRICTIONS REMAIN

PY251524 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2045 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (TELAM) -- It has been reported in the courts that the original 7-year imprisonment imposed on former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron expired at noon today. However, the prohibition on her holding public or political posts is still in effect. With the expiration of the sentence, the former president is no longer subject to the courts and there are no restrictions on her freedom. Reliable court sources said today that to lift the other prohibition would require both the military junta and the president to exempt her from the institutional acts and grant her a pardon.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON GROUP OF 77 MEETING

PY250312 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari today visited the San Martin Theater where the meeting of the Group of 77 will open on Monday. This is what he said after the visit:

[Begin Aguirre recording] [in progress] In addition to this continent [as heard] which will enhance the prestige of our country, I expect multilateral and even bilateral results as far as our country is concerned. As to the multilateral objectives which are the reason for this conference I hope that the various countries which will be represented here will be able to agree upon strategies for the summit meeting of all developed and underdeveloped nations, that is, the North-South meeting, which will be held in Belgrade in June.

This is the first target, to find successful, common and feasible solutions to the international economic order, which is now the source of concern for developed and underdeveloped countries alike, because the truth is that the international economic order, as we can see from the events taking place in Europe, is a cause for tension and concern for all government leaders. From the bilateral point of view, many of those countries that have already announced that they will participate in this meeting will take advantage of the visit their representatives will make to Argentina in order to hold economic talks with our country.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTES ECONOMIC RECOVERY

PY272245 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1110 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (TELAM) -- The country's economic situation is relatively better than 2 years ago. The exchange rate has been adjusted and no devaluations are expected regardless of the rumors. Private companies' debts are now 20 percent less than their overall debts at the beginning of the debt payments process. These figures are included in a private economic report released to 40 of the 130 representatives of the organizations that make up the Argentine Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the institutional council of that chamber.

The report was released by Javier Gonzalez Fraga, economic adviser of the Chamber of Commerce. The first to speak was Julio Gomez, chairman of the institution, who at the opening of the first meeting of the year, stated that we businessmen must be aware of what could happen to the country. This was the main subject of the meeting. Economic adviser Gonzalez Fraga stressed the importance of refinancing the foreign debt, because it is making it easier for us to pay our debts and to reverse the position of our trade balance deficit into a $3 billion surplus this year.

He added that during the past 24 months, the peso was devalued by 140 percent in real terms, and that the current exchange rate is really high. He stated that although economic recovery has not been even and not at all firm, at least it did not aggravate the situation of the remaining sectors. He noted that the depressive period of the economy reached its lowest point at the end of 1982 and that the recovery process began then. He felt, however, that this recovery process was delayed due to the country's general instability.

Gonzalez Fraga criticized the pessimism of the businessmen who feel that everything is going from bad to worse, and noted that if they remain in that position, they will be overcome by events. He said that the price increases recorded during the past few months was not due to a demand driven inflation since the money supply did not increase more than 8 percent, but that it was due to inflationary expectations.

He added that because of these expectations, the businessmen increased prices because they feared that the authorities would freeze them. If everyone expects prices to be frozen, the economic officials will have no other alternative but to freeze them, he stated. Other measures could not be taken into account because no one would believe in them. Gonzalez Fraga concluded by expressing hope for the development of economic measures. He said the next 60 days will be critical because of the lack of decision by the political candidates and the workers organizations on the future of the country.

MULTIPARTY GROUP SOLVES INTERNAL DIFFERENCES

PY251802 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1155 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (NA) -- The Multiparty Group has overcome one of its most serious crises since it was created, and is going to release an economic document today making "general proposals" after solving the disagreements between the Integration and Development Movement (MID) and the other four parties that make up the group. "The Multiparty Group is stronger than ever. There is not a single crack," said Carlos Contin, head of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) to the press at the conclusion of a meeting of the group's top leaders.

GALTIERI TESTIFIES IN PROBE OF FALKLANDS WAR

PY242240 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1345 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (DYN) -- Former President Leopoldo Galtieri today began to testify before the Joint Military Committee, which since December has been investigating the responsibilities of those who were charged with the strategic-political-military leadership during the South Atlantic war, it was learned from reliable sources.

COLONEL CESIO PUNISHED WITH 45-DAY SENTENCE

PY270128 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1641 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (DYN) -- Army Commander Lieutenant General Cristino Nicolaides sentenced Colonel (ret) Juan Jaime Cesio to 45-days arrest beginning today for the harsh criticism he made against the Armed Forces in a news report, without the authorization of the military command. Cesio was taken in an automobile from the Army command to the Armed Forces' penal institute at Magdalena. He was escorted by a colonel on active duty.

INTERIOR MINISTER RONCAL SAYS SITUATION NORMAL

PY252013 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Interior Minister Mario Roncal, during a brief press conference in Druro, has aaid that the social and political situation prevailing in the entire country is completely normal and calm. He added that the national government is currently engaged in the reorganization of the country and that the people in general have confidence in the constitutional government of the republic, which is working normally in a calm atmosphere.

Asked about the reports of subversive preparations advocated by former Col Luis Arce Gomez, the interior minister said that Arce Gomez is living in political exile in Argentina and that it is up to the Argentine officials to enforce the ruules concerning his political asylum. The minister also refered to the struggle against drug traffic saying that during his visit to several European nations, Boliva was able to gain substantial support in this area. He said: at this time we do not have sufficient means but we are firm in our decision to eradicate the illegal manufacture and marketing of drugs in the country.

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER DENIES CONSPIRACY RUMORS

PY252116 Paris AFP in Spanish 1138 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Gen Alfredo Villaroel Barja, commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, stated here today that any preparation for a conspirary or a coup d'etat against the current constitutional regime by no means involves the Bolivian Armed Forces. Our positions of respect for the national Constitution is well known. We have participated in the recovery of democracy and we will continue doing so, General Vallaroel Barja stated, commenting on an alleged conspirary against president Hernan Siles Zuazo's government.

In answer to a question on the presumed presence of former Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez on the country's southern border, Villaroel Barja stated that he did not know anything about it. I do not think that former Colonel Arce Gomez is in a position to head a coup d'etat. Besides, he is no longer a member of the army, he added.

According to some reports, Arce Gomez has organized a meeting apparently with paramilitary groups of the extreme right in Villazon (933 km south of La Paz) with the purpose of destabilizing Siles Zuazo's government. Nevertheless, the interior minister denied the report and added that he was positively sure that Arce Gomez did not leave the Argentine capital, where he has been granted asylum.

GOVERNMENT DEMANDS GREATER CONTROL OF ARCE GOMEZ

PY270119 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana has reported that his ministry has asked the Argentine Government to maintain greater control over the activities of Col Luis Arce Gomez. The interior minister said that this request was sent to the Argentine Government because Arce Gomez is carrying out subversive activities promoted by Gen Luis Garcia Meza on the Argentine-Bolivian border.

The interior minister made these remarks in Oruro, where he participated in the opening session of the second national congress of lawyers. He said that despite the rumors of subversive acts, the country is calm except for some social conflicts in demand of wage readjustments.

Asked about the activities that the Interior Ministry is carrying out against drug trafficking, Roncal Antezana stated that this campaign is supported by the governments of Austria, France and The Netherlands, and that the United States will also cooperate with this program.

He explained that during the past few days, 155 kg of cocaine have been seized in Cochabamba. The cocaine was found in 52 different plastic bags in a secret compartment of a tank truck. He added that the driver and his companion were detained by agents of the narcotics department, while the traffickers escaped.

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO LEAVES FOR PARIS VISIT

PY262018 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo left for Paris, France at 1100 today, Saturday, 26 March. after transferring presidential powers until next Friday to Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora.

At the invitation of his French counterpart Francois Mitterrand, President Siles Zuazo left the country accompanied by an official delegation made up of 11 persons, including Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado, Planning Minister Arturo Nunez del Prado, Senator Fernando Baptista and Deputy Alcides Alvarado, in addition to (Felix Rostidiosis), high-ranking official of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] and presidential adviser.

During his visit to France, President Siles Zuazo will hold private meetings with Mitterrand at Government Palace. They will discuss several subjects aimed at opening new fields of cooperation. The members of his retinue will also hold private work meetings in order to prepare specific documents that will implement the agreements reached by the two presidents.

COMIBOL MISSION OFFICIALS NEGOTIATE IN MOSCOW

PY252015 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] An official mission headed by the general manager of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, Comibol, is in the Soviet capital to renegotiate a debt with Mashindeksport and to establish conditions for converting the La Palca volitilization plant, which started its normal operations this year, from fuel oil to natural gas.

Comibol spokesmen said that the mission that traveled to the USSR to negotiate the financing of a second volatilization plant in Machacamarca will return to the country in next few days.

250 ARRESTED IN RIOTS IN SANTIAGO, VALPARAISO

Montero on Riots, Arrested Priests

PY251940 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] Today the government handed the priests who were arrested during last night's riots in Santiago over to the Apostolic Nunciature.

This morning Interior Minister Gen Enrique Montero told the media that what happened in Santiago and other cities last night had been carefully planned and that the events cannot be regarded as isolated.

The minister pointed out that 250 people were arrested for having participated in the riots that took place in this capital. He also pointed out their backgrounds are being investigated. It is being established to what degree they participated in the riots or whether they have committed similar crimes before in order to determine what measures will be taken. Some, of course, will be freed and others placed at this disposal of the pertinent courts, if evidence proves this is necessary, or we will implement provisional article 24 of the Constitution.

During a meeting with journalists at La Moneda Palace, Minister Montero disclosed that he had summoned Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Angelo Solano to his office in view of the arrest of Chilean Priest (Pablo Fontaine) and Irish Priest (Jeremy Heller Kelly) during last night's demonstration.

[Begin Montero recording] These priests will be freed today and will be sent to the nunciature so that they may (?report) to the nuncio and the church can decide how to handle this problem. The meeting I held with the nuncio was very cordial and I expressed to him the government's concern over this type of incident which could cause greater differences, something we do not wish. The nuncio also voiced the same concern, however, I think that we are handling the problem correctly and will reach a definite solution that will not increase, or better said, generate new disagreements, quite the contrary. [end recording]

The apostolic nuncio, on his part, stated that the interior minister had been very polite in inviting him this morning to discuss the issue and explain the reasons for arresting the priests. The nuncio then stated that he will meet with the priests this afternoon.

When the nuncio was asked why the priests had been arrested he answered that he was not quite certain yet but that the interior minister had, naturally, discussed the police report with him and pointed out that they will now carry out an investigation.

[Begin recording] [Question] Do you think this could be an escalation?

[Montero] I couldn't say yet. I do not think it is an escalation. Their movements were well planned and our stopping yesterday's demonstration was merely a reaction to the morning events which went beyond being a mere demonstration to become an act of a subversive and violent nature. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

The minister ends by stating that it would be too much of a coincidence if the events of yesterday afternoon had no connection with the morning incidents, therefore, he added, we proceeded to arrest people. For the time being there are 250 people under arrest.

Santiago Subway Train Bombed

PY260139 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] An extremist attack against a subway car caused damage of more than $700,000. Subway director (Rudorf Lauden) strongly criticized the action. He said that nobody would have ever imagined that this public facility, which is Chile's pride, would be attacked. Fortunately, he added, there were no victims despite the destructive power of the bomb.

A bomb was placed in the second car of a train leaving the (San Pablo) station. The driver became aware of the smoke inside the car and stopped the train. Passengers remained unaware of what happened because the subway's security system worked very efficiently. (Lauden) reported that subway service was interrupted for only 5 minutes. Many people could have died because the bomb, which was very powerful, caused considerable damage to the car.

Valparaiso Street Disturbances Reported

PY260152 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The secretary of Valpariiaiso's regional government reported that Carabineros arrested 50 persons in different places in Valparaiso, in the wake of street disturbances which followed an unauthorized march which was broken up.

Demonstrators gathered in the vicinity of (Victoria) Square, where they caused substantial damage to municipal properties. Some of the demonstrators threw objects at the Home Construction Corporation building located on (Conde) Street, and damaged some stores. There are 3 women, some students and criminals among the detainees. Demonstrators stopped streetcars and threw leaflets with slogans. The slogans are being studied to take legal action in keeping with the law of state security.

MARTIN, AYALA RECEIVE PRC TRADE DELEGATION

PY251901 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Sofofa [Industrial Development Association] President Luis Ayala has noted that the association has requested government enterprises to acquire their products in Chile.

Ayala made this statement at the end of a meeting he and members of a PRC delegation held today with Economy Minister Manuel Martin.

Ayala noted that the PRC is interested in increasing bilateral trade with Chile.

FARC ASKS GUERRILLA GROUPS TO RELEASE HOSTAGES

PA242235 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1739 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota, 24 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The self-styled high command of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, has asked its followers and the other leftist guerrilla groups that operate in the country to release all kidnapped persons now under their control. The proposal was contained in a letter addressed to Otto Morales Benitez, president of the Colombian Peace Commission, who told the press today that the letter was signed by Manuel Marulanda, alias "Tirofija; Jacobo Arenas; and Jaime Guaracas.

Morales added that the attitude of the FARC is aimed at showing that the group is not interested in provoking rightist actions that may lead to the implementation of measures harmful to peace.

Justice Minister Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha said recently that 33 persons are being held by kidnappers at the present time. These include the U.S. geologist Kenneth Bishop, operations manager of Texas Petroleum in Colombia, who has been a hostage since 7 March.

The self-styled People's Revolutionary Organization, ORP, took credit for his kidnapping and threatened to kill Bishop on 29 March unless its demands, which it has not revealed, are met by then.

Gen Bernardo Lema Henao, commander in chief of the Army, today accused the FARC of acting with "violence and cynicism and without sincerity." He added that while it is publishing documents advocating peace, it continues its murders and assaults in rural areas, like the robbery of a railroad payroll clerk last Saturday.

The minister said in a statement to the press that the FARC is in a stage of "taking a breather and financing itself to continue with its violent methods that have no other goal than a takeover of power."

Labor, Student Disturbances

PA252302 Paris AFP in Spanish 1750 GMT 25 Mar 83

[By Hernan Castro]

[Text] Bogota, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Peace among students and labor groups in Colombia was disrupted a few hours ago when students who support the armed struggle in El Salvador and oil workers demanding wage increases staged serious disturbances. The clashes, which were controlled by the public forces, are the first to erupt under conservative President Belisario Betancur's administration. Betancur, who took office on 7 August, announced then that the achievement of peace in Colombia was one of his immediate goals.

The clashes involving students took place in Bogota last night, upon conclusion of a drive for solidarity with the Salvadoran people, while some 200 university students were marching toward the U.S. Embassy "to protest interventionism in Central American countries."

Police claimed that 10 students from the state-run National University were detained and that a traffic policeman was hit by a stone. Meanwhile, in the Barrancabermeja river port, in the central part of the country, the workers of the state-owned Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) staged violent distrubances when no agreement was reached on a list of wage-related demands.

The incidents took place while labor and company leaders were discussing points of concurrence on the issue of resuming direct dialogue, after it was announced Monday that their talks had been broken off and that an arbitration tribunal was being convoked.

The workers, numbering about 7,600, who had approved the strike at a general assembly held earlier this week, rejected the tribunal and demanded "more seriousness" from the government, as well as a resumption of dialogue, in order "to prevent further damage to the country's economy."

Realizing that disturbances might occur, the government ordered the area around the oil refinery in Barracabermeja placed under military control. The workers termed this action a "provocation." The tense labor situation at Ecopetrol was made worse by the local citizens' demand that the government render the best possible public services, including water and sewer service and the collection of the garbage that is piled up in the streets.

The disturbances began near the refinery. The public forces had to use teargas to dissolve the demonstration, which was later joined by some students. There have been no reports of either casualties or arrests. Meanwhile, Betancur's government declared itself satisfied today with the new position taken by the communist and Castroist guerrillas, who have announced their decision to accept dialogue in order to achieve peace in the country and to avoid a bloodbath.

It has been learned that Betancur, who granted an amnesty to the rebels last November, received a note from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC -communist) on the previous evening announcing that all kidnapped hostages will be released.

FARC had previously suggested to Betancur that peace be negotiated at a personal meeting, or at one attended by delegates, in the jungle town of La Uribe, on the eastern plains. The president's decision on this subject has yet to be disclosed.

Last night, the Army of National Liberation (ELN-Castroist) notified the government of its decision to accept dialogue rather than war, announcing that it was joining FARC in its proposal but noting that "we are not interested in seeing the government extend its hands to the guerrillas; it must extend its hands to the people in general."

The ELN's position was passed to the government through Uruguayan Wilder Cesar Silva, who until recently was a member of the 19 April Movement (M-19), which is currently in a truce, and who was released from a jail in Bogota after benefitting from Betancur's amnesty.

FOREIGN MINISTER LLOREDA PAYS 3-DAY VISIT TO EGYPT

For Cairo reportage on the visit by Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, see the Egypt section of the 16 March issue of the Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT.

POLICE IDENTIFY SHINING PATH DEPUTY CHIEF

PY252047 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] According to reliable sources, the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) have identified Julio Cesar Mezich Izaguirre, a former medical student, as the deputy chief of the communist organization Shining Path. The PIP is distributing a wanted notice for Mezich Izaguirre, 32, just as it did a few days ago with another wanted notice for Shining Path chief Abimael Guzman Reynoso. According to police reports, the number two man in Shining Path has more influence than his boss and mentor in the communities of Apurimac and particularly in Andahuaylas.

According to information obtained from the police, the former medical student has two children, the fruit of a union with the daughter of a peasant community leader. The police do not disregard the possibility that Mezich Izaguirre is leading the subversive movement in the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Apurimac. This is why it is assumed that Guzman Reynoso is seriously ill. According to the police wanted notice, the Shining Path deputy chief has the following pyysical characteristics: He is a mestizo, has an oval shaped face, spaced eyebrows, brown hair, small mouth, straight nose. He is 1.69 m tall and weights 70 kg. In addition to his physical characteristics, the wanted notice has an enlarged photograph of his fingerprints with their typology. Up to now the PIP has accused him of crimes against public order.

SHINING PATH KILL MEMBERS OF PARAMILITARY GROUP

PY242244 Lima EL DIARIO DE LA MARKA in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 3

[By special correspondent Gerardo Torres]

[Excerpts] Ayacucho, 17 Mar -- Paramilitary troops that supported military and police forces in the struggle against insurgents were killed by armed "Shining Path" groups in the Ayachucho provinces of Huamanga and Victor Fajardo. Nestor Roca Hinostroza was killed by three shots in the head on the morning of 3 March in the town of Quito, located near to Ocros district [Huamanga]. Two days later, Panfilo Quispe, 45, and Deiza Canchari Hanampa 26, were killed in Huancaraylla (Victor Fajardo).

"Community patrols" have been established by the political-military command in those communities where the Armed Forces intelligence services have been able to infiltrate with the support of some settlers. This is now the official name of the paramilitary groups that, together with the Army, struggle against the Shining Path guerrillas. These paramilitary groups have orders to capture and kill any outsider that arrives in the communities where they operate.

SECURITY FORCES REPORTEDLY KILL 18 TERRORISTS

PY270117 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] It was reported that security forces killed 18 terrorists in Ayacucho Department. The terrorists were killed during clashes which took place in Huancasanccos, Sacsamarca, Lucanamarca and other towns of Ayacucho Department.

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN 8 PROVINCES

PY270228 Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Lima, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Today the Peruvian Government declared a state of emergency in 8 of the 16 provinces on Ancash Department, north of Lima, and approved a recovery plan for the Tumbes and Piura Departments on the northern coast of the country. The two measures were taken in view of the considerable damage caused by torrential rains, floods and landslides. This was the reason why Tumbes and Piura were declared in a state of emergency in a previous government measure, including Puno Department, in the southeast, which has been hit by a serious drought.

Luis Percovich, minister of fisheries, said that due to the state of emergency the public enterprises and ministries have been authorized to coordinate their actions to immediately take care of the problems in the rural and urban areas of Ancash, where a reconstruction plan will also be carried out. Regarding Iura and Tumbes, Rene Deustua, head of the National Planning Institute, said that the recovery program consists of investments of 27.15 billion soles ($27 million) in the agricultural, transportation and housing sectors. Credits for 4.7 billion soles ($4.2 million) have also been approved for farmers of the two departments to sow for the second time as soon as the rains stop because the first sowing last January was completely destroyed.

BILL SENT TO CONGRESS IN WAKE OF STRIKE

PY260009 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The executive branch yesterday approved a bill aimed at repressing the instigators of excesses and acts of violence as a result of stoppages and strikes. Political observers believe that the government is hardening its policies to face the most radical opposition sectors. Justice Minister Armando Buendia said that the Council of Ministers approved sending the bill to Congress so the government can have the necessary instrument to prevent stoppages or other protest measures from degenerating into criminal activity.

The government seeks to ensure that excesses causing loss of life or damage to public and private property do not go unpunished and that responsibilities be determined. Buendia and Minister Grados Bertorini explained that the bill does not violate union rights and freedom and that an investigation is now being carried out to outline responsibilities as a result of the last strike. Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb, in reference to the investigations, said that some of the information media, which supported the strike, gave "clear and precise instructions to paralyze and take over the city."

he pointed out: "They gave instructions about acts of violence to be committed in certain points of the city in order to create chaos and uncertainty. this is clearly incitement to commit crimes which have nothing to do with the demands of the workers."

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES RUMORS OF ARMY UNREST

PA250210 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 24 Mar 83

[By Luis Manuel Escalante]

[Text] National Defense Minister Gen Vicente Luis Narvaez Churion has said that the situation in the armed forces is absolutely normal. Here is what he said: [Begin recording]

[Question] To what do you attribute the rumors about unrest in the armed forces?

[Answer] I sincerely do not know how to explain those rumors; but I can guarantee to you and to the rest of the country that among all the members of the armed forces -- soldiers, officers, generals, all ranks -- there is no unrest and everyone is doing his duty.

[Question] What about reports of officers being arrested?

[Answer] That is absolutely false. This I can assure you.

[Question] Jorge Clivarria [Director of RESUMEN magazine] -- has been accused of being involved in an alleged military coup. He told us the government has made those charges against him. What about it?

[Answer] I do not know what evidence the government has against him. So far, the armed forces has not accused him of such a thing.

[Question] Would you say that the situation is normal among the members of the armed forces?

[Answer] absolutely yes. [end recording]

PRESIDENT ON COUP RUMORS, ECONOMIC SITUATION

PA251936 Paris AFP in Spanish 0101 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Today Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins firmly denied rumors of a coup d'etat and justified the government's recent monetary measures as a desire to reestablish the economy "at the lowest social cost." The rumors of a coup or of a military uprising in Venezuela are pure speculation, Luis Herrera Campins said at a luncheon with the foreign press. "I have received reports and nothing has yet been discovered. We are trying to find out where these rumors are coming from," the president added.

This weekend it was rumored that several officers and generals of the Puerto Cabello base, 300 km west of Caracas, had been detained after having attacked the "democratic institution." At the beginning of this week. THE NEW YORK TIMES reported those rumors on the fragility of Venezuelan democracy in three articles. The articles merited an explanation from Marcial Perez Chiriboga, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States.

President Herrera discussed the country's economic situation and the subject of exchange controls. The Venezuelan bolivar has three exchange rates to the dollar: A preferential rate of 4.3, and official rate of 6 and a tourist rate of 8 per dollar.

After stressing that the bolivar has been "revalued" for some time, Herrera Campins said that everything is ready for the implementation of the measures adopted to "permit economic recovery at the lowest social cost."

The president emphasized that Venezuela has "the best of relations with the IMF" but that for the moment Venezuela does not intend to resort to the $1.5 billion that it has in the IMF.

Luis Herrera Campins confirmed that his country asked for a 90-day grace period for payment of its short-term debt, but he refused to accept the designation moratorium. The Venezuelan president met with the press at Miraflores Palace where no whiskey has been served since the Malvinas conflict. He also said that the preferential exchange rate will not apply to alcohol, clothing, meat products and jewelry imports. Basic food products and industrial raw materials will also fall under the preferential exchange rate.

In addition to President Herrera Campins, Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano and Deputy Information Minister Yvonne Attas attended the luncheon.

PRISONERS' RELATIVES OCCUPY SWEDISH EMBASSY

PA251827 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1741 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, [no date line] (EFE) -- Relatives of Venezuelan political prisoners have seized the Swedish Embassy in Caracas to support the hunger strike by prisoners in several of the country's jails. Swedish Ambassador Carol Henrik von Platen told EFE today that those occupying the embassy, nine women and five children, are fine.

Von Platen said that the situation can not last long. He stated that the Venezuelan authorities have guaranteed that they will take no reprisals against these persons and therefore they can leave without fear.

More on Occupation

PA272338 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2123 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 26 Mar (EFE) -- After 48 hours, the peaceful occupation of the Swedish Embassy in Caracas by a group of 14 women and children continues. The occupiers, who claim to be relatives of "political prisoners who are on a hunger strike in several Venezuelan jails to protest mistreatment," have refused to leave the embassy. Swedish Ambassador Carol Gustafsson von Platen told EFE during a telephone conversation with the embassy that the situation remains unchanged and that there have been no incidents.

He explained that, in accordance with instructions received from his government, he has verbally asked the Venezuelan authorities to have the occupiers evicted from the embassy through whatever measures they deem appropriate. "Apparently the Venezuelan authorities are partial to a peaceful solution," the diplomat added. He said that Foreign Ministry representatives and police are at the embassy and that they have unsuccessfully tried to persuade the occupiers to leave. The condition of the occupiers, particularly of the five children, who range in age from 5 to 10 years, is apparently beginning to cause concern.

The ambassador told EFE that the women and children have been huddled together in one of the embassy's 10 rooms since 1030 on Thursday and that they have access to a bathroom outside the embassy. Apparently they received some food and drink from outside yesterday, but, the ambassador added, since Friday afternoon access has been under the authorities' control and the occupiers have presumably not been able to receive food.

Due to the symptoms of exhaustion and signs of dehydration in some of the children, the embassy asked for Red Cross assistance, with the consent of the local authorities. Red Cross doctors arrived this morning to treat the children.

According to the ambassador, the Red Cross members did not bring food or drink for the occupiers. Outside the embassy, the police continue to guard the building.

Occupation Ends

PA271802 Paris AFP in Spanish 1724 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Caracas, Mar 27 (AFP) -- Nine women and five children, who since Thursday had occupied the Swedish Embassy in Caracas demanding better conditions for the political prisoners in Venezuela, were evicted this morning, Ambassador Carol Gustafsson von Platen told AFP. At 0330 (0730 GMT) policewomen completed the eviction of the nine who had occupied the embassy located on the fifth floor of a building in the Altamira residential zone in downtown Caracas.

The ambassador indicated that according to reports the occupiers of the embassy were not physically mistreated and would be released after having been questioned. He added that he was not in the embassy when it was occupied.

The Caracas morning newspaper EL NACIONAL had accused the diplomat of being intransigent on refusing to allow food or water to be sent to the women and children if they did not leave the embassy. Von Platen told AFP that as far as he is concerned the incident is over and that he does not intend to issue any further information.

FINANCE MINISTRY SUSPENDS CAPITAL PAYMENTS

PA241943 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1522 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Caracas, 24 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Banking sources reported today that Venezuela informed its creditors that it is suspending payment until 30 June on most of its short- and medium-term capital debts that fall due before that date. The information was sent out this week by telex from the Finance Ministry. It explained clearly that interest payments will be made.

Capital payments by the Venezuelan Industrial Bank, the Agricultural Development Bank (Bandagro) and the National Savings and Loan Bank (Banap), are included in the 90-day suspension. There was no official statement available on the exact amount of capital payments involved in the measure, but the sources said they could amount to between $4.5 and $5 billion.

Finance Minister Arturo Sosa recently estimated the Venezuelan foreign public debt to be approximately $27 billion, $14 billion of which will soon fall due. The communique sent to the banks said that Finance Minister Sosa will attend a meeting of the recently established banking coordination committee, scheduled for 30 March in New York.

Sosa plans to visit the most important banking centers around mid-April to discuss refinancing, the message said. The 90-day suspension announced this week actually extends a previous 90-day postponement of capital payments on the debts of public institutions which fell due between 1 February and 31 March.

OLADE TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH AREA NATIONS

FL261321 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0216 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 25 mar (NOTIMEX) -- OLADE announced here today its decision to strengthen cooperation among the countries in the region because the recent drop in the price of oil will harm the area. The OLADE ministers today reported to president Miguel de la Madrid the results of the eight meeting in Queretaro, during which new lines of action for the future were adopted.

OLADE discussed the Petrolatin Project under study by Mexico and Venezuela, and agreed to stimulate the development of the production and distribution of hydrocarbons in Latin American countries. The ministers participating in the OLADE meeting felt that Latin American cooperation would lead to the diversification of commerce because, following the drop in the price of oil, the only way to attain a balance [in trading] to raise the price of our raw materials, the organization's executive secretary, Ulises Ramirez, stated.

With respect to the San Jose Treaty, which provides for the supply of oil to Central American and Caribbean countries, OLADE agreed to begin consultations to determine what is more convenient regarding this treaty due to end next August. During the meeting of the energy ministers, all views expressed tend to support the continuation of this instrument of cooperation, it was learned after the participants reported to President Miguel de la Madrid on the results of the meeting. The next OLADE meeting will take place in Jamaica next November.

SAN JOSE ENERGY ACCORD REVALIDATION AFFIRMED

FL260215 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0007 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Venezuela will maintain the energy cooperation program with countries of Central America and the Caribbean, it was announced today after a meeting between energy and foreign ministers from the two countries.

Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Mexican secretary of foreign relations, Franciso Labastida Ichoa, Mexican secretary of energy, mines and parastate industry, and Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan minister of energy, reiterated the validity of the San Jose Accord, now on its 3d year of operation, until next August.

During the next few months consultations will be conducted between Mexican and Venezuelan representatives to study the operation of the program and define the categories to be applied during its 4th year of operation. Citing recent events in the world oil market, the offical pointed to the San Jose Accord as an excellent example of the will of both countries to cooperate with developing nations in Central America and the Caribbean.

U.S. ACCUSED OF WAGING BACTERIOLOGICAL WAR

FL260020 St Georges Service in English 2300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The United States has been waging a secret bacteriological war against Latin American countries for over 10 years. This statement has come from 10 members of the institute of study and protection of national and cultural resources of Mexico. They told a news conference in Mexico that the bacteriological aggression was part of a large-scale offensive of U.S. imperialism on the developing countries.

The Mexican scientists cited numerous examples of acts of bacteriological sabotage against Cuba as well as other countries like Mexico and Brazil. They included the epidemic of gripe and (?dengue) and fungus disease of sugar cane and tomato.

LABASTIDA ON OIL MARKET, MULTINATIONAL FIRM

FL251629 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0319 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Mansion Galindo, Queretaro, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico strictly observes its objective of diversifying oil sales, Secretary of Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa stated today, adding that it is not convenient to depend on one country for the sale or purchase of products. In a press conference, the official said the oil export rate amounts to 1.5 million barrels per day and this has been reported to OPEC, which has set itself a limit of 17.5 million barrels per day for the international market.

He added that due to the importance that oil and energy in general have in the economic activity, it is necessary to seek a stability that would benefit the countries and the world economy, because we feel that oil is a long-term resource and, for that reason, it is not convenient to seek immediate profits, but to use the oil to guarantee our development process.

Labastida Ochoa discussed the topic related to the formation of a multinational oil enterprise, supposedly made up of Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela. Referring to this, the energy secretary noted that Mexico has problems to solve in the domestic sphere, citing the protection of the national productive plant and employment as well as generating new jobs for the workers, which is why, for the time being, the oil multinational will have to remain in the study phase.

PAREDES MEETS WITH CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES

PA252020 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] General Ruben Dario Paredes, chief of the Panamanian National Guard, today held a 3-hour private meeting with more than 400 Corregimiento representatives in the auditorium of the Juan Demostenes Arosemena Teacher's School in Santiago, Veraguas. Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega, members of the National Guard general staff, chiefs of the military zones, ministers and high-ranking government officials were also present. During the meeting, they discussed the constitutional reforms, especially title 5, which deals with the legislative branch.

During the meeting, which began at 1200 and ended at 1500, the local press waited in the library of the school hosting the meeting between General Paredes and the Corregimiento representatives.

Once the meeting ended it was learned that members of the People's Power brought up, among other things, the subject of reorganization of the national directorate of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD. General Paredes pointed out that this was not a subject to be discussed at a meeting like today's but a matter to be discussed with that political organization.

Regarding the constitutional reforms, after hearing the statements of the Corregimiento representatives, General Paredes recounted the history of the creation and development of the present people's representative system. He explained the need to reorganize it at this time, when the country is headed toward democratization.

General Paredes described the conclusions reached today during the meeting with Corregimiento representatives as supportive of civilian rule [civilistas], and added that the legislators will be elected by districts.

[Begin recording] [Paredes] Very positive and constructive. Very respectful, very supportive of civilian rule and advantageous to the homeland.

[Question] Could you name a few?

[Answer] The main thing is that they will lose the power to legislate. The legislators will now be chosen by a direct vote. They have understood that one has to give a bit for the benefit of the homeland. The truth is that those who hold this office must be subject to the will of the people. They understand this. The district elections are coming. They will not be at provincial level but through electoral districts in such a way that all Panamanians, of all origins and economic status, can aspire to becoming a legislator and not only those Panamanians who have the money or who are linked to powerful and big consortiums, as was customary before 1968, when deputies were selected. All Panamanians will have the opportunity to be legislators for their electoral districts. [end recording]

Regarding a referendum on the reforms to the 1972 constitution, General Paredes said:

[Begin recording] There will be a month of extensive orientation for the people. There will be public discussions where everyone will be able to give their opinion so that the day they go and vote yes, becuase everyone has to vote yes -- the reforms are very good -- everyone will know why they are voting yes; for the good of the homeland. [end recording]

Regarding the possibility of changes in President De La Espriella's Cabinet, General Paredes said:

[Begin recording] President De La Espriella is doing everything well. He should know when he wants to adjust his Cabinet. For the time being, I think they are working in a coordinated manner. Above all, I believe de al Espriella is doing a great job. [end recording]

In conclusion, the National Guard commander in chief reiterated his stand of not mentioning, for the time being, his possible presidential candidacy:

[Begin recording] For the time being, I cannot speak of any candidacy, because I head the National Guard and I will head the National Guard for a long time. [end recording]

PCC OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY HOLDING ARMS CACHE

PA271655 Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English 27 Mar 83 p 1-G

[By J. J. Harrison]

[Text] An arms arsenal that had been in the custody of the former police division in the canal area is still in the possession of three Panama Canal Commission [PCC] authorities, nearly 1 year after the Republic of Panama assumed control of police operations.

THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC has learned that the arms cache, stored in Building 729 in Balboa, Ancon Corregimiento, Republic of Panama, is being held under the responsibility of Fred (King) Cotton, the director of the Canal Commission's General Services Bureau.

Panama took over on April 1, 1982 the police and judicial systems in the canal area, under the terms of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Cotton and his two cohorts, Michael (Mike) Gordon and Charles (Charlie) Mobris, have been pointed out as attempting to set up an intelligence operations system within and without the commission. According to well-informed sources, Cotton and his lieutenants have steadfastly rejected a move designed to transfer the arms to the Panama National Guard.

King Cotton and his men have also pooh-poohed a proposal to turn the arms over to the United States, and have even turned down a recommendation that the armament be dumped in the sea, the paper was told. It is speculated that Cotton plans to use the arms in a projected paramilitary force that would clandestinely carry out function the Torrijos-Carter treaties assign to the National Guard and the joint forces, for the defense and protection of the canal.

It was also learned that the covert activities of Cotton and his two assistants have been creating a great deal of concern for the United States diplomatic mission here. Sources said these diplomatic officials consider that the goings-on of the three men constitute a serious obstacle to the proper implementation of the 1977 treaty and to the desired rapport between both governments. Gordon is the director of the commission's support services, while Morris is chief, Canal Protection Division.

COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT, DELEGATION TO ARRIVE 7 APR

PA271647 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 27 Mar 83 p A-1

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica will arrive in Panama 7 April for an official 3-day visit, sources close to the Foreign Ministry confirmed yesterday. While here, Monge and President Ricardo de la Espriella will sign an air transport agreement between Lineas Aereas Costarricenses (LACSA) and Air Panama, for the transport of passengers and cargo to several countries. They will also hold a series of talks on bilateral issues and on the torrid Central American situation, the sources said.

Included in Monge's entourage for the Republic of Panama visit are Costa Rican Minister of Economy Marco Antonio Lopez, Minister of Industry Calixto Chavez, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ekhart Peters and Executive President of LACSA Otto Escalante.

VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL SAYS NO CHANGE IN AID

PA240150 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Hermann Soriano, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund [FIV], has announced that the Venezuelan Government will comply with all its agreements for foreign financial aid, and that the emergency measures announced last week will affect future aid agreements.

[Begin recording] [Question] Professor Soriano, could you explain to this television station and the Panamanians who are listening why Venezuela has suspended aid to the Central American countries?

[Answer] Actually, there has not been a suspension. I have explained to my colleagues in the Central American and Caribbean countries who are involved in the program of International Financial Cooperation Program that approval of certain long-term loans has been deferred. These loans will be analyzed and considered soon in a meeting of the FIV assembly.

Therefore, I wish to confirm here that the San Jose Agreement, which Venezuela, along with Mexico, has signed with the Central American and Caribbean region, is still in effect. The FIV decided recently was to defer consideration of certain projects to a later occasion.

[Question] Mr Minister, which of those projects would affect Panama?

[Answer] In Panama's case, no project was being considered by the assembly. These projects involved other countries in the area. Therefore, there has been no deferment affecting Panama. [end recording]

On the subject of financing for the bridge over the Panama Canal, the FIV minister said:

[Begin recording] [Soriano] Regarding the bridge, I wish to say that the Venezuelan Government has always been ready to provide the appropriate financing for its construction. On this subject, we have had talks with the Panamanian Government to promote the mechanisms that, within the country's possibilities, will permit this financing.

[Question] Does your government support the refinancing of Latin America's total debt and that of your own country?

[Answer] Our government is currently involved in a process of reorganizing its debt. The finance minister has just visited the main international financial centers to arrange for this refinancing. So far, our policy is that of individual refinancing, but we are willing to listen to the various ideas on the subject mentioned in important forums such as the IDB. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

MINISTERS MEETING WITH NICARAGUA TO BE PROPOSED

PA252246 Paris AFP in Spanish 1505 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose, 25 Mar (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government will propose to the Nicaraguan Government that a meeting of foreign, government and security ministers be held to discuss bilateral border problems, the Foreign Ministry announced in San Jose. The meeting would be held on 4 April in Nicaragua.

The initiative, which has the support of a board of former foreign ministers that met in this capital yesterday, was described by President Luis Alberto Monge as "an opportunity to hold a dialogue at the highest level" and to discuss Costa Rican navigation on the San Juan River, the charges of Sandinist raids into Costa Rican territory and a plan for joint border demarcation.

Should these diplomatic efforts fail, a Costa Rican Foreign Ministry document stresses, the board of former foreign ministers has agreed to become a consultative body that would determine the best way to take the San Juan River border issue to the proper international authorities.

The document adds that the former foreign ministers again categorically declared that Costa Rica will continue to guide its foreign policy by the principles of nonintervention in other countries' domestic affairs, the peoples' right to self-determination and strict neutrality in conflicts affecting other nations. THe Foreign Ministry pronounced the opinion of the board of former foreign ministers "a consensus that reflects the opinion of the majority of Costa Rican citizens."

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTER REPORTEDLY TO RESIGN 30 MARCH

PA251546 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Persistent rumors have continued circulating -- to the point that they are practically no longer rumors and, according to certain sources, they are indeed fact -- about the resignation of Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia. The resignation is reportedly to be announced before 30 March this year, since the defense minister promised to do this at the time of Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez' uprising.

According to our source, General Garcia is expected to announce his resignation from the post of defense minister on 30 March. Persistent rumors were also circulating this morning about the resignation of Finance Minister Dr Jorge Eduardo Tenorio.

POLICE CITE ARREST OF TWO FOREIGN REPORTERS

PA271227 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0555 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Salvadoran authorities have ordered the arrest of two foreign journalists and an investigation to determine their alleged connection with the guerrilla groups which operate in the country, the police and a U.S. Embassy spokesman reported here last night.

Joan Ambrose Newton and T. J. Western were arrested yesterday at Western's house by Treasury Police in civilian clothes. Miss Newton of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Western of the Associated Press Radio are in custody of the authorities, the diplomatic spokesman stated.

An official of the U.S. Embassy interceded on behalf of the two journalists, but it was learned that Western is detained at the general headquarters of the Treasury Police, while Newton is under house arrest after her custody was passed over to the embassy authorities.

Thus far no charges have been pressed against them, but the police stated that their possible connections with "subversive" groups are under investigation. Friends of Western said that some of his tapes were confiscated during the police search. No other details on the case were learned.

Journalists Reportedly Released

PA271856 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1804 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Joan Ambrose Newton and T.J. Western, two U.S. journalists arrested last night, were released a few hours later following efforts by the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador, reliable sources reported today. According to reports, Joan Ambrose Newton, who is a correspondent for the U.S. NBC Radio network was released and is now at the home of a military official of the U.S. Embassy. T.J. Western was also released but up to now neither the press organ for which he works nor his whereabouts is known. The sources said that the U.S. reporters were arrested by the security corps "for investigation after one of their telephone calls were intercepted."

ARMY, REBEL CLASHES REPORTEDLY LEAVE 22 DEAD

PA261735 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Fourteen guerrillas, one Army officer and seven soldiers were killed during clashes in the past 48 hours in San Jose de la Montana canton in Zacatecoluca and in the coastal highway in La Union Department in the eastern part of the country.

According to a report by an official source today, approximately 150 guerrillas yesterday attacked the Las Marias military Garrison in San Jose de la Montana canton, La Paz Department. Ten leftists, an officer and five soldiers were killed in the ensuing clash.

On the coastal highway in Usulutan, guerrillas ambushed a military patrol. Four rebels and two soldiers were killed in the clash, while an undetermined number were wounded on both sides.

La Union military sources today reported that the armed forces have established strict patrolling of the townships and highways with the aim of averting extremist and criminal actions.

VENCEREMOS REJECTS GOVERNMENT'S AMNESTY OFFER

PA251535 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] We are winning this war and could not care less about any amnesty. Our enemies should not make themselves ridiculous by begging us to stop the war, since it is the dictatorship's army which is surrendering; it is the dictatorship's army which is surrendering its weapons to us at each battle fought against our revoulutionary forces.

The dictatorship's amnesty is intended to be a political humiliation, because there is nothing as repulsive as a pardon given by genocidal elements and aggressors.

In face of this, the banner of courage and dignity is being raised by the political prisoners. Onward, companeros! Stand firm in prison, for the revolution is advancing firmly on the outside!

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY'S IMAGE IMPROVED

PA261240 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] In a message today, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola reiterated that Guatemala complies with its international commitments. The foreign minister said that a year after the installation of the Rios Montt government, definite changes have given the country international credibility, after a prolonged period of isolation.

He stated that there is respect for human rights in the country and that the repressive police corps, which violated such rights in the past, has been disbanded. He also stressed that Guatemala has nothing to hide; moreover, it has invited representatives of the various human rights organizations, as well as journalists to visit the country.

Castillo Arriola added that in Guatemala there is no discrimination as to race, sex, social or economic position, religion or political affiliation. He added that the country is advancing toward pacification and economic recovery in order to achieve the government's main objective: The reconciliation and progress of the Guatemalan family.

The foreign minister dedicated a considerable part of his speech to praising the aspirations for freedom and human rights, which are principles of the UN Charter and of other organizations to which Guatemala belongs.

He mentioned rights and duties, saying that like any other country, Guatemala has its virtues and defects, ideals and conditions. He added that the country has faith in its future and at the same time he asked God's blessings.

OFFICIAL ON GOVERNMENT CALL FOR ELECTIONS

PA261653 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Gonzalo Asturias, presidential public relations secretary, has called on all political parties and leaders to proceed with good judgement in order to best serve the country's interests. He noted that the nation will return to constitutionality and democracy without haste or conditions, but at a pace dictated by prudence and common sense. The public relations officer said that the government believes that elections cannot be held with the forged documents used in the past to commit fraud. The government, he added, will call for constituent elections as soon as possible, but with a new electoral registry; otherwise, it would be like laying the foundation for a deformed democracy.

MLN HINTS AT WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN COUP

PA260245 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] At a news conference today, the National Liberation Movement, MLN, claimed that it had participated directly and decisively in last year's 23 March coup d'etat. According to this same statement for the press, the MLN reportedly made a mistake in participating in the coup, since, in its judgement, the course of the new government has been uncertain since. The movement also hinted that it would participate in another coup, were the circumstances right.

ORPA AIRS CALL OVER RADIO NEUVO MUNDO FREQUENCY

PA251627 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1753 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Armed Peoples Revolutionary Organization (ORPA) overrode the frequency of a local radio station to air a call urging young Guatemala Army officers and soldiers to desert. An employee of the overridden station, Radio Nuevo Mundo, made a statement to ACAN-EFE. The employee, who asked not to be identified, said the interruptions occurred late yesterday and coincided with the celebration of the first anniversary of the 23 March coup d'etat. "The ORPA messages lasted some 5 minutes each and there was nothing our personnel could do to prevent them," he said. The guerrillas' message used female voices. Among other things, ORPA said that the Guatemala Army troops and young officers should resign from the armed institution "so as not to continue being manipulated by their superior officers."

HONDURAS

NEWSMAN REPORTS NICARAGUAN TROOPS FIRE ON TOWNS

PA251534 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] troops have not only taken positions of attack against Honduras, they have also fired on Honduran towns. Newsman Juan Ramon Aguilera reports from Choluteca.

[Begin live relay] Good morning, listeners. This is Choluteca reporting for Cadena Audio Video. The Nicaraguan Government is falsely accusing ours of continuous attacks and troop mobilizations, but here is the truth about what has happened along our border in Choluteca Department. Yesterday the people who live on the Nicaraguan side of the border were evacuated and a battalion of well-armed soldiers arrived in 32 trucks. They are camping in an area between the custom post of La Trinidad [Honduras] and Somoto [Nicaragua].

On Sunday, in a place known as Palo Verde, near Santa Maria, a Nicaragua platoon used their mortars to launch 50 grenades against 17 Honduras soldiers who were on a routine watch. They have destroyed the Nicaraguan civilian [word indistinct] because they want to keep the people out of danger. The continuous aggression is taking place from Nicaragua and they, using the tactic of liars, are putting the responsibility on the Hondurans so other nations believe we are the aggressors.

We do not see any troop mobilizations in the Choluteca sector. Everything is quiet. Meanwhile, Nicaragua is being mobilized and its soldiers are being supplied with war materiel. The Honduran Army wants peace while they prepare for war. We completely deny the Nicaraguan charges that Honduras has carried out an aggression in this area and that there is a Honduran mobilization of troops. [end relay]

GOVERNMENT DENIES CLASH WITH NICARAGUAN FORCES

PA252133 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2043 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Communique from the office of the director of international information of the Honduran Government; issued in Tegucigalpa on 25 March -- read by announcer at the Honduran Government House]

[Text] The government, by means of the office of the director of international information, declares: 1. It is absolutely false that Honduran and Nicaraguan forces have clashed in Nicaraguan territory, as reports from the Managua regime indicate.

The Honduran Army remains at its posts and has never crossed the border of a neighboring country, since it has clear orders only to safeguard Honduras' national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2. On the contrary, it is the threat of war leveled by Commander Humberto Ortega, chief of the Sandinist Army, that is affecting peace in the region and that goes against the OAS and UN Charters. This threat is also an attack on the principles of the UN Security Council, whose main objective is to safeguard peace in the world.

3. It was the Marxist military regime in Nicaragua that mobilized troops on the border, thus provoking our country and promoting a climate of tension to support the propaganda and diplomatic offensive that it has launched at the UN Security Council.

4. This propaganda show is an effort to make the people forget, among other things, the feelings of repulsion produced by the aggression, disrespect and profanation of the Eucharist promoted by the Managua regime during the pope's visit.

5. The Honduran Government is convinced that the insurgency problem suffered by Nicaragua is a strictly internal issue that the regime wants to expand, an effort to attribute to other countries a struggle that is simply a problem involving domestic dissidents.

GOVERNMENT NOTES NICARAGUAN INTERNAL DISSIDENCE

PA261516 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Press release issued by Honduran Government International Information Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 25 March 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] It is completely false that Honduran Government troops have carried out military actions against Nicaragua or that anti-Sandinists have invaded that country from Honduras, as stated in a Nicaraguan Government note signed by Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga.

In view of the seriousness of these unfounded charges by Nicaragua's Marxist military government, the International Information Directorate once more feels bound to counteract Nicaragua's misinformation campaign and to state that Honduras is struggling to internationalize peace rather than the sorrow and poverty brought about by war.

According to reports from Nicaragua, many Nicaraguan nationals -- Miskito Indians, peasants and former members of the present government -- have rebelled. However, this is a delicate matter of internal dissidence in Nicaragua in which Honduras has no hand whatsoever.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry's charge regarding Honduran-Nicaraguan border clashes at Madriz and Chinandega Departments is simply part of a campaign to creat confusion. There is an old and hackneyed tactic of creating international problems when domestic problems threaten a government's stability. Nicaragua is apparently pursuing this tactic.

In view of the fact that the Sandinists' charges distort Honduras' image as a peace-loving nation, this country reiterates once more to the world that it is not attacking and will not attack any neighbor whatsoever and that it wants peace and respect for democratic institutions, such as freedom of speech, ideological pluralism, free enterprise and freedom of religion, to be observed in all Central American countries.

COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCES EXPULSIONS FROM NICARAGUA

PA272205 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Honduran Government charged that five Hondurans who lived in Nicaragua had been expelled. According to the Honduran Government, they were expelled on 25 March "in what appears to be an escalation of the Nicaraguan Government's aggressiveness against Honduras."

The charge states that the act is "unfriendly" and contrasts "dramatically" with the attitude of the Honduran Government, which has opened its doors to more than 35,000 Nicaraguan refugees "fleeing from violence and repression in the neighboring country."

The Honduran Government claims that the incident is added to the mass mobilization of Sandinist troops along the Honduran border and the threat of an armed direct aggression "which has been voiced by several leaders of the Sandinist military regime."

The government communique affirms that Honduras has neither mobilized its army nor decreed a state of alert and does not promote unfriendly acts against Nicaragua.

It also talks about a Nicaraguan propaganda campaign against Honduras, with the intention of "internationalizing an internal conflict and launching a smokescreen to divert attention from the internal insurgency, projecting this reality outside Nicaragua's border."

The Honduran Government states that the Managua regime seeks to confuse national and international public opinion "and prepare a military aggression against Honduras with the overt support of Cuba and the Soviet Union."

It notes that in contrast, Honduras proposes a regional meeting of foreign ministers to contribute to detente in Central America, but that Nicaragua rejects dialogue.

PAZ BARNICA ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHARGES AT UN

PA251830 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The National Security Council yesterday met with President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, Presidential Minister Carlos Roberto Flores and other ranking government officials to discuss various issues. The meeting lasted 8 hours. Here is an interview which Dr Paz Barnica granted after the meeting: [Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] It is not a national defense council, but a national security council, which is something entirely different. It is a consultative organization which the president heads as part of his constitutional responsibilities. The council includes the president; the secretaries of government, the presidency, foreign relations; the chiefs of the Armed Forces, the Air Force, the Navy, public security; the joint chief of staff; and the Army's chief inspector.

The president calls the council to meet once a month and on special occasions if necessary. The council discusses issues of national interest. Today, as you know, we met for several hours beginning early this morning to review matters of national interest. Naturally, our review included the charges Nicaragua filed before the UN Security Council, and which we strongly rejected through Dr Enrique Ortez Colindres, our ambassador to the UN. We have duly instructed him on the case, reiterating our peaceful position, the dedication of the Honduran people and Government to dialogue and the determination of our constitutional and democratic government to rally for peace and turn down any intent of war. Honduras favors peace, not war.

Besides, we analyzed the current situation in some Central American countries, like Nicaragua, which is embroiled in an internal conflict. Honduras is not involved in this conflict but it logically affects our institutional development.

We also discussed the Salvadoran crisis and expressed our satisfaction with the decision to advance the Salvadoran presidential elections to December. The Honduran Government considers that such a process, designed to establish a democratic system in that country through the people's participation in free elections, should be consolidated.

[Question] Did the meeting make any decision regarding the Nicaraguan Government's publicity campaign against Honduras?

[Answer] We discussed the bolstering of our foreign policy by upholding the principle of nonintervention and respect for the self-determination of the peoples. We respectfully but strongly criticized that campaign against Honduras and rejected the charges filed before the UN Security Council in that respect because our government has nothing to do with the internal conflicts affecting the Nicaraguan Government. I have been in permanent contact with our UN ambassador, Dr Ortez Colindres, and have given him specific instructions on dealing with the situation. Should the circumstances demand, I will go to New York in the next few hours.

[Question] Is there any chance for a dialogue with the Sandinist Government despite its refusal voiced at the UN council?

[Answer] Honduras is always open to a dialogue at various levels as long as conditions for such dialogue exist. I want to reiterate, however, what I said yesterday on the occasion of the first anniversary of our peace proposal. Honduras is working hard to arrange a meeting of Central American foreign ministers, without discrimination of any kind, and with the participation of other democratic governments of Latin America.

Such a meeting would offer the opportunity for dialogue and negotiations as well as for a joint debate in the search for a solution to the situation affecting Central America which, in the opinion of Dr Suazo Cordova's government, is of overall regional nature.

[Question] Did you analyze the statement by Commander Daniel Ortega [name as heard] in which he does not discard the possibility of a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua?

[Answer] Naturally, but we also reaffirmed the Honduran reply, which was published in the papers today and which we submitted yesterday to the president of the OAS Permanent Council. We reaffirmed that the statement of Commander Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan defense minister, is a serious threat to the region's peace and security because he implies in his statement that Nicaragua is prepared for a war with Honduras, while, in turn, Honduras is prepared for a dialogue in favor of peace as well as an overall regional dialogue.

The OAS and UN charters strictly prohibit the threat or use of force in international relations. The Nicaraguan Defense Minister has threatened the use of force by speaking of the imminence of war with Honduras. I repeat: Whether or not Nicaragua wants war, Honduras wants peace. [end recording]

In reply to a question from a reporter as to whether our country was prepared, should Nicaragua attack us militarily, Dr Paz Barnica said: [Begin recording] In the first place, we have already denounced the threat before the international organizations. As for the other part of your question: As a Honduran, I imagine you know that, in the face of threats from another state, the Armed Forces, as part of the government, are always prepared to do their constitutional duty in defense of the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The Honduran Government and its Armed Forces, however, are not on combat status, but merely continue to observe their full support for peace.

[Question] Dr Paz Barnica, on several occasions you have said that Nicaragua is trying to distract international opinion from its internal problems?

[Answer] Yes, I think so because the problem affecting Nicaragua is worsening. Logically, under such circumstances and considering the lack of democratization of the revolutionary process, for which the Nicaraguan people have paid such a high cost, the Nicaraguan Government is trying to divert attention by making accusations before international organizations, accusations that we reject and refute with sound and solid arguments.

COMMUNIST PARTY ON POSSIBLE WAR WITH NICARAGUA

PA260433 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 83

["Message from the Communist Party of Honduras to the Honduran People on the Armed Attack on Nicaragua," issued in Tegucigalpa; date not given -- live or recorded relay from Tegucigalpa]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: That which our party and other revolutionary and popular organizations have so long denounced has now occurred. An open military intervention against Sandinist Nicaragua has been unleashed from Honduran territory.

Even though Suazo Cordova stated that Nicaragua would not be attacked during his presidential term and even though General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez reacted violently to French Government Representative Antoine Blanca, calling him deceitful for having courageously revealed something that we all know -- that there are camps in Honduras where the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, organized, trained and prepared thousands of former Somozist guardsmen to attack the Sandinist revolution -- today's events, which are even more obvious than the cynicism with which the Honduran Foreign Secretariat has tried to deny such accusations, confirm our denunciations and unmask those who were trying to confuse the Honduran people and the international public.

As the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported and as Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco has reiterated at the UN Security Council, there is an international plot, led by the U.S. Government and supported by the Honduran Army, to create a war with Nicaragua. Thousands of former Somozist guardsmen, the scum of the old Nicaraguan society, bands of assassins and thieves, men without scruples or morals, trained for abuse and intimidation and servants of one of the bloodiest and cruelest tyrannies in our continent, have now staged an attack and invaded Nicaraguan territory. Supported by Suazo Cordova's complicity and the undeniable logistical support provided by an important sector of the Honduran Army, they serve as the spearhead for U.S. imperialism's plan of intervention.

No one in Honduras can ignore these events. Social and political personalities with different religious creeds or ideologies have been warning of the danger of a policy that seeks not only to render our country a parade ground for the Central American counterrevolution but also an important place to set up, on orders of the Reagan administration, a regional armed conflict. If such a conflict occurs, it will have tragic consequences for our people; and due to the diversity of the conflicting interests, it will become a serious threat to world peace as well.

This has not yet been comprehended by either the Liberal government of Suazo Cordova, who has betrayed his party and the people who entrusted their destiny to him, or General Alvarez Martinez, commander of the Armed Forces, whose fierce anticommunism and insane hatred for all progressive ideas have turned him, as his former comrade in arms Colonel Leonidas Torres Arias has noted, into a real maniac, a threat to the military institution that has permitted his political outrages and repression.

We ask the Honduran people and their most representative social and political organizations not to be deceived by the campaign of lies and slander unleashed by the imperialist news agencies and the Honduran press and radio stations, which are following orders issued in a genuine psychological war on the Sandinist revolution. If the unfortunate war with El Salvador in 1969, which lasted only 100 hours, brought regrettable consequences for both countries, a war on Nicaragua, besides being disastrous, would turn Central America into a second Vietnam.

Neither our officers nor our soldiers should delude themselves. An attack on Nicaragua will not be a simple military excusion, as Armed Forces Commander Gustavo Alvarez Martinez dreams. The great majority of the Nicaraguan people support the national reconstruction government led by Commander Daniel Ortega. They are with the FSLN or are members of the parties in the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, which includes Sandinists, socialists, revolutionary socialists, independent liberals and other patriotic sectors of Nicaragua. They are with the Sandinist Peoples Army and their peoples militias. They are determined to fight hard for their right to freedom and independence, for the achievements obtained in 3 years of revolution and for the free Nicaragua for which 50,000 Nicaraguan patriots died.

That is why the Communist Party states that if the Yankees miscalculate and the reactionary sectors of Suazo Cordova's Liberal government and the Honduran Army commit the grave error of going to the aid of those who, being their proteges, fell into the trap and are now being pursued and surrounded by the Sandinist Peoples Army and militias in the mountains of Segovia, they will pay a high price for this foolish military adventure and their political nearsightedness, because the Nicaraguan people will fulfill the words of Sandino, who said that the sovereignty of a people is not discussed but is defended with weapons in hand.

Nicaragua is no more alone than are Cuba, the small, threatened Grenada or the Salvadoran people, whose heroic guerrillas are victoriously defeating the dictatorship of Magana and D'Aubuisson. The countries of the socialist community, the great majority of the governments, nations and organizations of the Nonaligned Movement and all progressive humankind are with Nicaragua.

All Honduran revolutionaries and patriots are with Nicaragua. We vigorously reject the epithets of traitors and fifth columnists with which the paid spokesmen of the transnational companies and the oligarchy are trying to immobilize us. The defense of Nicaragua is the best way to safeguard our people's economic and social achievements, which are now being threatened by the domestic repression and the Yankee interventionist policy in the region. To defend Nicaragua is to safeguard our own sovereignty, which has been violated by the presence of all kinds of Yankee, Chilean and Israeli military advisers, experts in counterinsurgency and CIA technicians who are experts in torture, kidnapping and death. It is to struggle against the mysterious disappearances or the political assassination of hundreds of popular leaders. To be with Nicaragua is the best guarantee that our dear Honduras, with the effort of its best sons, will at last have freedom, real democracy, social progress and independence. Nicaragua is waging today the battle that we must unfailingly wage for our own social and national liberation. Let's tie the hands of the aggressors.

Let's expel from our territory those who, abusing our generosity, have brought mourning, sorrow and death to a people who want to build their own destiny in peace. No to armed intervention from Honduran territory! No to the senseless and fratricidal war against Nicaragua! Let us protest and avenge with our mobilization the offense to our people's honor, which has been compromised by our leaders in an attack on a fraternal people. No to imperialist intervention in Central America!

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA ON TRIP TO NONALIGNED, MOSCOW

PA262310 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2153 GMT 26 Mar 83

[News conference held by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, on his return from trip abroad; at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] We are happy to be back in the country after participating in the seventh summit in New Delhi, the results of which are well known by everyone. The political and economic resolutions reached were very positive and favorable for the interests of the peoples. During our stay in India we had to opportunity to meet with many heads of state who were present there, particularly with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. We discussed bilateral Indian-Nicaraguan topics and, logically, regional problems as well.

After India, we visited Vietnam -- the City of Hanoi and the City of Ho Chi Minh -- where we met with Companero Le Duan, secretary of the Vietnamese party; Companero Truong Chinh; and Companero Pham Van Dong. We visited Vietnam for 3 days. An exchange of ideas took place, particularly in the political area, along with an exchange of information. As we are both members of the Nonaligned Movement, it was an opportunity to strengthen our relations and to work on coordinating common action within that movement.

After Vietnam, we visited Kampuchea, where we met with Kampuchean chairman Heng Samrin. In Kampuchea, we learned first hand of the effects of the barbarity that those people have undergone. When we visited Kampuchea and saw the city, which gives the impression of awakening from death, we pictured the city of Managua after the quake. That is the feeling and impression that Phnom Penh, the Kampuchean capital, gives. In view of the horrors experienced there, the only precedent in the history of mankind for the crimes committed by Pol Pot and his accomplices are those that fascism and Hilter's nazism committed in Europe during the war.

We then visited Laos, where we met with President Souphanouvong and Party Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan. We again had the opportunity to strengthen relations with a country and a people that are Nicaragua's friends and with whom we are united by common causes, as we are both part of the Nonaligned Movement. We laid the foundations for strengthening exchanges with that country on all aspects.

From Laos we went to Korea, where we held several meetings with Korean President Kim Il-song. Our stay in Korea was a very important experience for us, especially because military maneuvers are now being held by the U.S. Armed Forces in the southern part of Korea. They involve thousands of U.S. troops and a variety of U.S. war equipment, including warships bearing atomic weapons. This comes at a time when the Central American region is also suffering the attacks on the U.S. aggressive policy and at a time when naval and military maneuvers are also being held in the Central American and Caribbean region. This logically gives us a common perspective in facing imperialist aggressiveness. In our stay in Korea, we strengthened our relations with that republic in the cultural, economic and other areas.

After Korea, we visited the Mongolian People's Republic, where we met with Companero Marshal Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal. And here, too, we had the opportunity to strengthen relations with a country that is Nicaragua's friend, a country that is far from Nicaragua, but to which we are linked by common ties, including our struggle against foreign invasions and for independence and self-determination. We reached cultural and economic cooperation agreements in Mongolia.

We also visited Moscow during our return trip from the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference. Yesterday, I met with Companero Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary. We exchanged information on the international situation and on that in Central America. We are interested in having this situation known and we provided information on this matter in all of the countries we visited since the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference. We discussed the results of the summit, which must be viewed within the context of efforts being made for world peace, in which the USSR has played a prominent role.

After our meeting with Andropov, while on our flight home to Managua, we passed through Cuba and we held a meeting with Companero Fidel Castro, president of Cuba. We exchanged opinions on the situation in the Central American region.

Following this trip, we find ourselves in Nicaragua once again. We can tell our people that we found dynamic solidarity in all of the countries we visited, demonstrated in both the political and material sense and in all other aspects.

[Question] Commander, we would like to know how the countries you recently visited interpreted the latest ridiculous accusations against Nicaragua made by President Reagan.

[Answer] Well, everyone understands that this is an attempt by the U.S. Government to try to justify its aggressive policy in the Central American region, aimed particularly at the Nicaraguan people. We are already experiencing increased activity by the Somozist Guards, who are armed by the U.S. Government. We are seeing this in our dead and in the sorrow of the Nicaraguan people, who are not being allowed to rebuild their country in peace.

[Question] I would like to ask if ties were strengthened in your meeting with Companero Yuriy Andropov and if any economic, military and political agreements were discussed with the USSR?

[Answer] Our relations with the USSR are friendly and fraternal ones, which have been and are being maintained. They have now been ratified by the meeting that we held with Companero Andropov, as was expressed in the press note issued in Moscow. Thank you very much.

Ortega-Andropov Meeting Cited

PA252208 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2113 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Communique issued in Managua by the Directorate of Dissemination and Press of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua on 25 March -- read by a directorate journalist]

[Text] The Directorate of Dissemination and Press of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction reports to the Nicaraguan people that at 1130 Moscow time, 0230 Managua time, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra met with Yuriy Andropov, secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting lasted an hour and 15 minutes.

The Moscow press, radio and television reported the meeting in the following manner: A meeting was held on 25 March between Yuriy Andropov, secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee, and Commander Daniel Ortega, member of the FSLN National Directorate and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, who is in Moscow en route to Managua after participating in the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi. During their meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and full mutual understanding, they examined Soviet-Nicaraguan relations and some international problems. Yuriy Andropov stressed that the Soviet Union has great sympathy for the efforts of the friendly Nicaraguan people to ensure the economic and social transformation of their country and for this purpose, it gives them political support and material cooperation.

Commander Daniel Ortega stated that economic tasks are being carried out in Managua and he expressed deep thanks for the Soviet Union's effective solidarity. Commander Ortega reported on the work and primary results of the nonaligned conference in New Delhi. They Both placed high value on those results and stressed the great importance, under the current conditions, of the Nonaligned Movement and of its principled positions on the essential problems of war and peace, of the struggle to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, of disarmament, of equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation among all countries and of the need to guaranteee the right of all peoples to develop independently. Great attention was paid to the situation in Central America, particularly in light of the warmongering policy pursued by the United States, which tries in every way to keep the region's peoples from deciding their own destiny. In this regard, Commander Ortega reported on the actions of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces and of all of the Nicaraguan people in confronting the recent incursion into the country by counterrevolutionary interventionists, who are acting with direct support from foreign imperialism. Commander Ortega stressed that the Nicaraguan revolutionary government has the necessary means to defend the fatherland and to defeat the interventionists. Commander Ortega also said that the Nicaraguan Government consistently supports a just political settlement in El Salvador and dialogue to solve other regional problems.

Yuriy Andropov expressed the conviction that Nicaragua will be able to safeguard its freedom and independence and expressed the frank solidarity of the Soviet Union and of all of Soviet people with the Nicaraguan people and their just cause.

[Signed] Director of Dissemination and Press for the Junta of Government of National Reconstruction

[Dated] The year of struggle for peace and sovereignty.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN NUEVA SEGOVIA DEPARTMENT

PA261719 Paris AFP in Spanish 1634 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Test] Managua, 26 Mar (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Army and antigovernment troops were locked in fierce fighting today along the Honduran border region in the northern department of Nueva Segovia, a situation that has persisited for over 3 weeks, official sources have confirmed.

Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today reported that military activities c ontinued in the north-central part of the country, which has been the scene of violent confrontations that have left a toll of at least 400 dead.

According to the official report, some 1,500 former Somozist guardsmen who entered from Honduras constitute the Anti-Sandinist units that are fighting in the sectors of Quilali and Wililí in Nueva Segovia.

Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan authorities claim to have the antigovernment groups hemmed in.

In view of the situation, Ramirez appealed for the strengthening of national unity to "smash the Somozist guardsmen who are trying to return us to the past of torture, oppression and exploitation."

"Nicaragua," Ramiriez added, "is under the merciless aggression of the Somozist guardsmen who stained it with blood in the past, and who are responsible for so many crimes and bombings of cities." The government leader said that the attackers have killed unarmed persons, including some farming and construction workers, who were working in the area of the fighting. There have been no reports on the latest casualites in the recent fighting, but the last official count indicates that over 300 Anti-Sandinists were killed in combat, while the Nicaraguan Army troops sustained some 70 dead.

Enrique Bermudez Varela, the principal leader of the counterrevolutionary forces staging this offensive against the Sandinist Army, is a former Somozist Civil Guard colonel and former Nicaraguan military attache to the United States.

Meanwhile, tension between the Honduran and Nicaraguan governments, in view of the incidents in the troubled border zone, have further intensified. It is feared in diplomatic circles that war may erupt between the two countries, which are accusing each other of instigating the clashes.

The Nicaraguan Government stated that last Thursday, 24 March, that an undetermined number of Hondurans made an incursion "3 km from the border post of Los Espinos, Madriz Department." and attacked the Sandinist forces, who repelled the attack. For its part, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat yesterday accused Nicaragua of "violating Honduran territorial waters and seizing two fishing boats," in the Gulf of Fonseca in the Pacific Ocean, which is shared by the two nations and El Salvador.

However, the Nicaraguan Government's principal complaint is that the counterrevolutionary contingents have their training and refugee bases in Honduras with the consent of this country and of the United States, which the neighboring government has systemically denied.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTS RANCHO GRANDE ATTACK

PA272036 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communiques issued on 26 March in Managua -- read by Domestic Service Director Carlos Jose Guadamuz at a live press conference at the Interior Ministry]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announces the following: At 0600 today, 26 March 1983, an undetermined number of counterrevolutionary forces, who were unable to seize the hamlet of Rancho Grande located 44 km north of Matiguas in Matagalpa Department, staged a treacherous and criminal attack on the defenseless people, using mortars, rocket launchers and various types of rifles.

As a result of this cowardly action, two members of the Sandinist People's Army and two members of the Sandinist People's Militia were killed as well as French laboratory technician Pierre Jean Michel Grosjean. In addition, 17 other people were wounded, including 7 children. Companero Michel Grosjean had come to Nicaragua as a result of a technical aid agreement signed between our country and France. He was dedicated to the noble task of researching certain tropical diseases that mostly affect our peasants, among these, mountain leprosy or leishmaniasis.

This new barbaric action perpetrated by the Somozist counterrevolutionary bands against the innocent civilian population is further evidence of the criminal and genocidal nature of the enemies of our people, who have turned defenseless citizens into a primary military target. This treacherous attack on the people of Rancho Grande had the same goals and characteristics as the previous ones, carried out in (Cano la Espanolita), (Comarca Panama) and San Francisco del Norte, where elder people, women, men and children were made the target of hatred and of the most wicked and inhuman desire for vengeance of those whom the U.S. Government seeks in vain to present as defenders of democracy and the Christian values.

In face of this new barbaric action perpetrated by the Somozist bands, the Nicaraguan government once again charges before our people and the international community that:

1. The U.S. Government's unconditional and unrestricted support for the Somozist counterrevolutionary forces is the ultimate cause of Nicaragua's currently grave situation, which has already cost and continues to cost the lives of hundreds of innocent citizens.

2. The criminal band that attacked Rancho Grande is part of the groups which, coming from Honduras, have launched an invasion against Nicaragua. These groups are maintained and supplied from Honduran territory with the complicity and collaboration of that country's armed forces.

3. Despite Nicaragua's determined willingness to seek peaceful solutions to the current regional crisis, the U.S. Administration has intensified its attacks against Nicaragua and redoubled its material, logistic and propaganda support for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

4. Despite this situation, and without this in any way undermining the revolutionary government's firm determination to defend the homeland's sovereignty, independent and territoral integrity by any means necessary, efforts will be redoubled so that peace can prevail in Central America over the warmongering and interventionist plans promoted by the enemies of our peoples.

French Doctor Casualty

PA271236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1035 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, 27 Mar (EFE) -- French physician Pierre Grosjean was killed Saturday in Nicaragua in an attack by Anti-Sandinist forces against Rancho Grande in the northern part of the country, the Nicaraguan Embassy in Paris reported today. Sources of the Nicaraguan Embassy added that four other civilians were also killed in that same attack. According to the French-Nicaraguan Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee, Pierre Grosjean had been in the Central American country since last August and was cooperating with the Sandinist authorities in medical research.

TWO DEAD, TWO WOUNDED IN STATE FARM ROBBERY

PA280255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2223 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Two persons were killed, two wounded and one arrested as a result of an attack perpetrated by eight unidentified individuals against a state farm 18 km south of Managua, it was learned today. Reliable sources revealed that eight men armed with pistols yesterday attacked the state production unit [UPE] and stole 120,000 cordobas ($12,000). After the attack, the robbers encountered a station wagon loaded with militiamen and a firefight ensued.

Francisco Perez, a 70-year-old militiaman, and Paulina Cardenas, a 17-year-old peasant who was traveling in the car, were killed. Militaman Ruperto Aguirre and an unidentified girl were wounded.

When the unidentified individuals tried to commit another robbery, the local militia managed to arrest one of the attackers, who was carrying the money from the previous attack. The money was recovered.

BORDER TALKS WITH COSTA RICA PLANNED FOR 4 APR

PA261912 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] San Jose -- Representatives of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments are scheduled to meet on 4 April at the mouth of the San Juan River to review common border problems. The meeting will be held at the border town known as San Juan del Norte. Participating in the talks will be Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano and Interior Minister Alfonso Carro for Costa Rica as well as their Nicaraguan counterparts. It has been learned that the meeting was suggested by the Costa Rican president and that his suggestion was supported by nine former foreign ministers who met yesterday at Government House in San Jose to discuss the manner in which relations with Nicaragua are being handled.

HAVANA CITES BORGE ON REAGAN ACCUSATIONS

PA261238 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge charged in Managua that the evidence presented by U.S. President Ronald Reagan against Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba is intended to justify a huge military budget. Speaking before some 50 foreign reporters in Managua, Borge said that the United States, the world's largest amasser of arms, is accusing Nicaragua of arming itself and shows as evidence a photograph of the Sandino Airport with three Soviet helicopters. The FSLN National Directorate member said that if this is Reagan's great reasoning, it is truly a lack of respect not only for Nicaragua but for the U.S. people themselves.

Borge later added that the reporters attending the news conference had seen the three Soviet helicopters at the airport. One of these helicopters was used to transport Pope John Paul II to Leon. After stating that it is not strange to have an antiaircraft battery to protect an airport, Borge said that Nicaragua has no nuclear weapons, adding that Reagan's suggested military program is intended to increase U.S. nuclear power.

REAGAN SEEN AS DEMONSTRATING 'U.S. ESPIONAGE'

PA261531 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Washington -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan yesterday publicly admitted the systematic espionage his government conducts against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, which the three countries' governments have repeatedly charged. In a speech transmitted nationwide from the White House on Wednesday night, Reagan used all the resources at hand to justify a new escalation in the U.S. arms race. As he has done on previous occasions, he based his judgement on the so-called Soviet threat to the free world.

As part of his efforts to gain congressional support for the military budget he has proposed for the present fiscal year, the White House chief also showed photographs of alleged military installations in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, in a propaganda move to bring the so-called Soviet threat closer to U.S. frontiers.

The U.S. President's presentation clearly demonstrated that the U.S. espionage system -- whether successful or not -- is working actively against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada.

EDITORIAL ON QUAINTON SPEECH TO BUSINESS GROUP

PA242317 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p 3

[Editorial: "With U.S. Policy They Orient 'Businessmen'" -- capitalized passages published in italics]

[Text] Using the language of a proconsul, in front of the appropriate audience -- the Central American Chambers of Commerce -- and published in the ideal newspaper -- LA PRENSA -- [U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Anthony] Quainton propagandized Reagan's views on the regional crisis, which misplace the historical causes and seek to restore (or confirm, depending on the case) U.S. political domination through an alliance with the traditional power structures. In order to achieve this, he urged them "TO WORK TOGETHER AND PLAN TOGETHER FOR A FUTURE TOGETHER."

This means to save TOGETHER -- that is, imperialism-oligarchies -- Central America's economic, social and political structures for the United States and its allies this means endorsing efforts aimed at the "ACHIEVEMENT OF A PEACEFUL CHANGE IN THE REGION," and, of course, "HELPING REPLACE POVERTY WITH DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO HELP REPLACE DICTATORSHIP WITH DEMOCRACY."

Outside the managerial environment in which Quainton delivered his address, nobody understands these Yankee purposes, except in the opposite sense. It could not be otherwise, since nobody -- other than those who have economic commitments to their own class, like those in his audience -- has forgotten Yankee sponsorship of the regional dictatorships, Somoza's foremost among them. Nobody -- except for imperialism's ideological agents -- has forgotten the Yankee military presence in El Salvador as a powerful "supporter" of the bloody dictatorship that kills women, priests and bishops while half ruling there. Nobody -- except for traitors to the homeland -- has forgotten that the revamping of the military dictatorship in Honduras with a suposedly civilian government brought with it the complicity of its army, which serves as rearguard for the Somozist guardsmen who kill and kidnap our peasants along the northern border.

There are many things that nobody has either forgotten or will ever be able to forget. Among these, is the fact that the four points on which Reagan's anti-Central American policy is based have no credibility outside his sphere of domination, because they are based on a false premise and seek a perfidious objective: Identifying the East-West confrontation as the cause for the regional conflict in order to justify U.S. military intervention in defense of the "fourth border."

The other arguments, which play with social justice and democracy, are merely rhetorical extras that in no way change reality. But it is not good to attribute an innocent purpose to them. Quainton's speech, the activity carried out by the commercial bourgeoisie's organized groups and the reactionary press' receptivity to these practices are inseparable from the general aggression against Central America as a whole and Nicaragua in particular. The escalation of military aggression is accompanied by an escalation of propaganda and political agitation by the pro-imperialist sectors, whose work is aimed at total destabilization.

The fact that the policy advocated by both Quainton and his government praises private initiative as a factor in letting society's productive activity "BE BROADLY AND EQUITABLY SHARED BY THE INDIVIDUALS", has never convinced any people anywhere is demonstarted by the increasing revolutionary struggle, which history is recording.

But going from that absurd assertion to brazen encouragement of the private sector's antirevolutionary political initiatives is a development of our times, in this country, right now. The first should not be forgotten, and one must be ready to respond to the second.

SUPPORT IN UN AGAINST U.S. 'AGGRESSION' CITED

PA260414 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico, Cuba, Panama, Colombia, Grenada and Ecuador voiced their support at the UN Security Council for Nicaragua's struggle against the plans of destabilization and armed aggression that the U.S. Government is implementing against the Nicaraguan people through use of counterrevolutionary bands from Honduras. All of those Latin American nations stressed the need to search for a solution to the conflict through dialgoue and blamed the United States, directly or indirectly, for aggressive actions against Nicaragua that endanger the peace in the Central American area.

Other nations from other areas of the world, such as Malta, Spain, Libya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Vietnam, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Mauritius, expressed concern at the UN Security Council over the events that Nicaragua has denounced and urged that dialgoue and negotiations be permitted to replace weapons in the search for practical solutions in the Central American area.

STATION SAYS PASTORA TO ISSUE COMMAND 'SOON'

PA251646 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Commander Eden Pastora Gomez will very soon issue a call. You must always be ready to heed his firing command, which Voice of Free Nicaragua will very soon broadcast to the world. This is the official voice of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE. Alongside our people we will build the truly free future that our people have dreamed about for centuries. We must be ready so that, as in the past, we may (?display a single) liberating arm.

Our alliance is fighting for the ideals of a betrayed people and you, militiaman, are part of those betrayed people. The roar of the cannons and rifles can already be heard in the mountains of our homeland and will soon be heard throughout the national territory, to show the world that we are determined to die in order to achieve our true liberation. The ARDE forces are already inside Nicaragua. Remember that the counter-revolutionaries are in northern Nicaragua. We, the true Sandinists, are in the south. We do not want a return to the past. We are the ones who will definitely wage a true revolution, the one that Augusto Cesar Sandino, the general of free men, dreamed about.

We in Arde seek a third option. (?We are a driving) force. As our motto says: Neither a return to the past nor a fall into totalitarianism. This is Arde's motto: Neither totalitarianism nor a return to the past.

PASTORA WILL NOT WAGE BORDER WAR, SAY AIDES

PA251905 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Commander Eden Pastora will not compromise Costa Rica's neutrality in his struggle against the nine traitors. Dissident Sandinist Commander Pastora will not wage a border war this time, as was the case between 1978-79, during the struggle against the Somozist regime, authorized spokesmen of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, which Pastora leads, announced yesterday.

Pastora, whose whereabouts are unknown, has engaged in a phase of internal organizational aimed at deep penetration, his associates disclosed, without providing further details.

According to reliable ARDE sources, Pastora will not hold the news conference here that he had previously announced for 15 April. He had said that the conference would be definitive. Pastora's decision seeks to avoid compromising the Costa Rican position on the Nicaraguan conflict.

When ARDE sources were aksed about Pastora's reaction to the government's announcement that he will not be allowed to involve Costa Rica in hostile actions against other nations, his principal aides answered that Pastora left his San Jose offices 10 days ago.

Meanwhile, according to one of Cero's closest associates, the war will be won from the inside through insurrection, rather than from abroad through intervention. According to him, they have nothing to do with the belligerent activities that the Somozist groups that comprise the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, have been recently carrying out in Matagalpa. No steps are being considered to unite ARDE and the FDN, Pastora's spokesman insisted.

REBELS SAY FSLN PLANNING TO FREEZE ACCOUNTS

PA261248 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Reliable sources have told us that the members of the traitorous collective plan to freeze the saving accounts the Nicaraguans have in the different financial organizations of the country. The sources say that this will be done through what will be termed an emergency measure, taking into consideration the war situation in the country and the multiple economic problems that have confronted the false government of Nicaragua in recent months.

The measure will be taken through a decree and will negatively affect thousands of Nicaraguans who have long-term deposits and savings accounts.

The Voice of Free Nicaragua, official voice of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, fulfills its duty to warn our people of this arbitrary measure, which goes against the interests of our suffering people.

Our sources are part of the national financial system and have assured us that the secret will be revealed within 30 or 60 days, according to the urgency and needs of those who murder and oppress our people.

We alert our people so that they will reject this unjust measure. We stress the need to prepare for the struggle that will start in a matter of days. The hour of our liberation is close. Free fatherland or death.

HAVANA ON REAGAN'S BUDGET 'DEFEATS' IN CONGRESS

FL251915 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1236 GMT 25 Mar 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela from the staff of the "Revista de la Manana" program and Javier Rodriguez from the PRENSA LATINA staff -- Live]

[Text] [Fernandez Vilela] Good morning friends. The policy of President Ronald Reagan has suffered two consecutive defeats in the U.S. Congress. The day before yesterday, the House of Representatives, as widely reported by our media, agreed to approve only half of the increase for military expenditures requested by the U.S. President for the 1984 fiscal year budget.

Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday agreed to approve only $30 million of the $60 million that Reagan requested for urgent military aid to El Salvador. This committee also urged the U.S. Administration to make efforts so that the sides in conflict in El Salvador hold talks. These two actions, Javier, represent a moral setback because it shows the increasing concern of the U.S. people and their various political, social, religious and labor leaders about the arms buildup promoted by Reagan and about interference in the affairs of El Salvador and of all the Central American countries.

[Rodriguez] Obviously, as you mentioned, this was a setback for the positions which the Reagan administration has been upholding in regard to the Central American situation and its warmongering policy. It is interesting to note, Fernandez Vilela, that this occurred just a few hours prior to President Reagan's speech. This speech contained a true mixture of ridiculous and dangerous statements. As we have noted, Reagan's speech from the White House was carried over radio and television. In this speech, he displayed the primitiveness that exists in the U.S. foreign policy. I don't know if you recall that unreal and false accusations were made in that speech.

[Fernandez Vilela] They were ridiculous.

[Rodriguez] They were ridiculous and false, but also dangerous. In other words, there were charges against Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua, which were based on the traditional U.S. campaign to falsely indicate a Soviet presence in these countries.

[Fernandez Vilela] I believe that in regard to this, we must stress the truly ridiculous aspects of the Reagan speech, for example, he said that there were three helicopters at Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport which endangered the U.S. security. However, these three aircraft -- one of which was used to fly the pope to Leon, as the Nicaraguan interior minister subsequently reported -- do not have the range to reach the United States and much less carry weapons because they are mainly used for transportation, although they are military helicopters.

But as if this weren's enough, Reagan criticized the Nicaraguan Government for having antiaircraft gun batteries at the Managua airport. It is only logical for a government to decide to have some kind of antiaircraft defense in order to repel any attack. In addition, these are very simple antiaircraft defense systems. Another aspect of his speech, which drew a lot of attention, was the insolent attack on Grenada when he said that the airport that is being built there will serve as a spearhead for the Soviet-Cuban penetration in the Caribbean. This airport, which the United States originally refused to build, is being built by Grenada for touristic purposes.

This has been admitted by several international institutions of the capitalist world because the present air terminal of Grenada cannot receive large planes and thus limits the access of tourists to that island and, as we all know, the Grenadian economy is very dependent on tourism. In other words, this is another ridiculous and false statement.

There is a rear admiral, I don't know if you remember his name. He is retired and is the president of some organization which studies military problems. He said that the tanks Reagan referred to in his speech and presented as Soviet supermodern tanks of great technical and offensive capacity, were superior to the American tanks, are just a version of the T-72 which the Soviet Union has used for many years.

But to conclude this matter, I wanted to discuss and note that the reaction of Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill is very interesting. He said that Reagan's arguments about new weapons for a space-age war and a nuclear war only existed in the plots of science fiction movies. I believe that with this, O'Neill ridiculed the allegations of the U.S. President.

[Rodriguez] I think that Reagan's remarks have provoked negative reaction inside and outside the United States. Logically, the affected countries responded to these false accusations and many congressmen expressed opposition to these remarks. What is behind all these false accusations that have even reached the extreme of describing our Caribe ground station in Jaruco as a terrible and dangerous weapon or a dangerous communications system? It really wasn't necessary for President Reagan to show a picture of it because we show it everyday here when we announce the satellite news.

Therefore, by showing this type of picture and saying that they are terrible weapons or instruments of communications at the service of alleged war policies, Reagan, in addition to appearing ridiculous, is also trying to justify an increase in the military budget that involves approximately $300 billion for the Pentagon. As you were saying in the beginning, this budget has suffered certain cuts, not too big though, in Congress. However, the people and certain sectors of the U.S. Administration are repudiating this budget because it implies another step in the implementation of the warmongering policy imposed by the U.S. Administration and also another step to increase the dangerous situation or tension existing in the world precisely because of the implementation of this policy.

In addition, I think that Reagan's speech has another element that must not be forgotten: It is the fact that he publicly admitted the constant espionage that the United States is carrying out in other countries. The United States has no right to carry out spy flights. However, Reagan even boasted about this espionage and showed pictures which, although they have no military value, are part of a propaganda campaign, and do show that the rights of the international community are being violated with this type of espionage.

There is another aspect which we must mention and which is truly ridiculous. It is Reagan's order to begin the production or to continue the studies to produce a superweapon to destroy Soviet missiles before they take off. This is truly out of a science fiction movie. I think Reagan would have loved to make that type of movie.

[Fernandez Vilela] Just as O'Neill said.

[Rodriguez] Yes, just as O'Neill said. I think he would have loved to have made that type of movie or the type of movies which poison American children and those of other countries and which we had here in our capitalist past.

[Fernandez Vilela] These movies obviously have an influence on the U.S. President.

[Rodriguez] This is the funny and ridiculous part of the problem but there is also a serious part to this matter: It is false that the United States needs more weapons. It is also false that there is a Soviet military superiority which provokes this type of effort to seek new weapons. The U.S. Government has hundreds of nuclear missiles aimed at the Soviet Union. Its NATO allies also have them. As if it was nothing, the United States is planning to deploy 572 new nuclear missiles in Western Europe this year and they will also be aimed at the Soviet Union. In other words, the alleged need for a defense is false. The United States has more than enough, and with what they have, they are in a good position. They are thus increasingly boasting and showing an offensive attitude against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. This is the serious part of the matter. The ties that the U.S. Government has with the merchants of war -- the makers of the deadly weapons -- are also a serious matter. These merchants make large profits with these kinds of ideas and they are truly benefitted by the Reagan administration and its militaristic policy.

[Fernandez Vilela] Javier, our time is up buy I'd like to comment on another defeat that Reagan suffered before we conclude. He was defeated in his own ballpark, in other words, in the Senate, where there is a Republican majority. The day before yesterday, a senatorial budget committee approved the $60 million that Reagan had requested for El Salvador but on the condition that the number of U.S. advisers in that country not be increased and that a negotiated solution between the government and the revolutionary forces be sought. However, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee went far beyond that, and despite the Republican majority in that legislative chamber, the committee recommended that the amount be reduced by half and also established conditions for the aid. It established that various measures be taken to get the parties in conflict to begin negotiations. This same committee sent a letter to the secretary of state suggesting that the economic aid to El Salvador not be increased beyond last year's figures. Although this is not a specific agreement by the Senate and although it must be said that Reagan has mechanisms to grant the additional $60 million [figure as heard], without the Senate's approval, this action is an evident rejection in a legislative body where the Republicans and the Reagan policy were always favorably accepted. This is already a sign of the political situation in the United States. We must note that there are many popular, regligious, social and political personalities who are demanding a stop to the arms race and the U.S. intervention in El Salvador and in the Central American area.

[Rodriguez] The imperialists are simply talking the language of war and not that of peace, Fernandez Vilela, and this contrasts with the attitude of the Soviet Union, which publicly stated that it will never be the first one to use nuclear weapons. An attitude on this kind from the United States would be much more positive than this tragicomic speech in which there is talk of superweapons to destroy the missiles and great campaigns which endanger world peace are invented. It would be more positive for the United States to have a peaceful attitude.

[Fernandez Vilela] All we want to add now, is that these two specific actions within the U.S. Congress must make Reagan realize that the repudiation of his policy is increasing and is becoming stronger not only among the people but among American leaders.

COUNTRY 'WELL-ARMED,' UN DELEGATION WARNS

FL261359 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] At the United Nations this Friday, Cuba warned the United States that the Cuban people are well-armed and ready to make imperialism pay at a very high price any attempt of aggression.

Using the right of response, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations Raul Roa Kouri said Cuba would never make the mistake of confronting the most powerful imperialist state with homemade weapons.

Roa Kouri rejected ironic statements by the Yankee ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, in a country [the United States] where human fraternity is something belonging in museums, only found in moth-eaten parchments, it is no surprise to us that ironic statements are made about the fraternal relations maintained by Cuba and Nicaragua and Cuba and Lenin's fatherland. We are proud of those relations, Ambassador Roa Kouri stressed. And today more than ever before, we reinforce our fraternal solidarity with the Sandinist government and the Nicaraguan people and with the heroic Salvadoran and Guatemalan revolutionaries.

The Cuban diplomat recalled that Mrs Kirkpatrick delivers diatribes, and at the same time carefully avoids responding to concrete charges submitted by Nicaragua against the United States. She must respond to the charges on U.S. training camps for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and on special allocations of funds to the CIA for encouraging subversion in Nicaragua, Raul Roa Kouri stated.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER

FL261239 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Brigadier Salih Muslih Qasim, defense minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Participating in the talks, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, were the other members of the Yemeni high-level military delegation visiting our country, PDRY Ambassador to Cuba 'Umar Husayn Al-Hurubi and Division General Senen Casas, alternate member of the party Politburo and first deputy FAR minister.

HAVANA ON U.S. 'ESPIONAGE RING' IN AREA

PA251814 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 24 Mar 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Approximately 2 years ago, the United States established an espionage ring in Central America. Its tentacles were directed toward the guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala and at the young Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua. In those days, Washington circles that make political decisions and Pentagon strategists built up -- with tremendous resources and effort -- that big lie to prove that the Salvadoran rebels' arms were coming from the USSR and Cuba. It was thoroughly proved that the arms used by the guerrillas to fight against the troops of the region's genocidal military regimes are, for the most part, seized in heroic battles against the military.

The big espionage ring set up in Central America by the CIA and the National Security Agency is currently a gigantic apparatus that has increased its tentacles. U.S. news media have charged that its activities range from the infiltration of agents into Nicaragua, to low altitude flights over Salvadoran rebel-controlled territory.

Recent reports reveal that near Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, the Pentagon is setting up a radar station with a 200 nautical mile radius, which includes Guatemala's airspace, the southern part of Belize, the Northern zone of Costa Rica and especially all Nicaraguan, Salvadoran and Honduran territory. U.S. news media resports indicate that this complex, high technology espionage center, which will be operated by U.S. Air Force officers, will start functioning by the end of this month.

At the same time, the United States is making an urgent effort to maintain a school from the Pentagon in Panamanian territory, which according to the 1977 canal treaty, should be shut down on 1 October next year. Among U.S. plans is to train some 2,250 officers of Latin American armies there, mostly from El Salvador and Honduras. The dangerous conflict the United States is trying to unleash with its constant aggression against Nicaragua from Honduran territory has made Honduras the general headquarters for military operations and espionage, directed by the U.S. Government and the CIA. The U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa is run by the well-known expert in the war of aggression carried out by the United States against Vietnam: John Dimitri Negroponte. A total of 147 civilian and 97 military personnel have been assigned to this embassy, making it one of the largest in the region. This does not include the hundreds of U.S. officers, who are part of the mobile forces offering specialized training courses to Honduran troops and former Somozist guardsmen.

An AFP reporter said with concern, that it is no surprise to see soldiers in the streets of every town in Honduras. In Honduras the people are forced to join the Army instead of going to school, a Honduran doctor told the AFP reporter. The U.S. Government's feverish interventionist efforts are leading to the most gross intrigues, even at the highest level. A few days ago, Thomas Enders, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, publicly said that Salvadoran Army troops were receiving training in Venezuela. This led to both a denial and an irate protest by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano. According to political circles in Caracas, this maneuver was intended to discredit the peace efforts for Central America made by the Mexican and Venezuelan governments, among others. Regarding the U.S. refusal to accept the path of negotiations to resolve the Central American conflict, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca told the Mexican newpaper EL DIA that there are two options: The victory of the Salvadoran guerrillas and a political solution achieved through negotiations, or U.S. intervention of unforeseeable consequences for the region.

GRANMA EDITORIAL ON ORIGIN OF A.I.D.S. AILMENT

FL261700 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Mar 83

[GRANMA editorial of 26 March titled "One More Proof of the Imperialists' Impudence"]

[Text] The editorial of the official organ of our party's Central Committee publishes a dispatch of the Spanish news agency EFE, in which Cuba is accused of having introduced a terrible disease into the United States. The illness, know as acquired immune deficiency syndrome, [A.I.D.S.] is maliciously linked to the arrival in that country of the dregs of society [Cuban refugees who departed Cuba via Mariel] by U.S. medical authorities. The acquired immune deficiency syndrome is currently troubling U.S. medical institutions, but to date not a single case of that disease has been reported in Cuba. GRANMA explains that long before the dregs of society had arrived in the United States, the first cases of the disease had already been reported in California and in New York's Greenwich Village, well-known for the proliferation ad promiscuity of its homosexual population. It also indicates that the Cuban homosexuals who went to the United States as a prominent segment of the dregs of society have nothing to do in this matter. They left a healthy country and now they find themselves in grave danger.

The editorial adds that the Cuban authorities concerned, as it is logical, about the nearness of this lethal epidemic, which has no cure so far, have conducted various types of research work and studies. They report that it is characteristic of the disease that it acts as the primary means in destroying the body's immunoligical system, allowing secondary diseases to take hold, which results in the death of the individual.

The two secondary diseases most associated with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome are an infrequent type of pneumonia and a rare type of cancer known as (karposis) sarcoma. With abundant statistics, GRANMA demonstrates that this disease did not originate and does not proliferate in Cuba, and that up to now our country has remained free of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

GRANMA further explains that during the past 2 years the presence of this disease has been reported by 13 countries, including Europe, and that indicates the need for adopting the strictest control measures. It adds that the United States doubtlessly is the country where this ailment has found an environment singularly propitious for its sinister proliferation.

GRANMA examines the state of public health in the United States and notes that the emergence of this disease has taken place together with an alarming deterioration of the epidemiologic controls and an increase in the number of infectious diseases in the United States. GRANMA talks about epidemics and diseases lashing the United States in recent years, such as Legionnaire's disease, numerous venereal diseases, which specially proliferate among homosexuals, new ailments such as toxic shock syndrome which caused numerous deaths among that country's women in 1979, and diseases such as tuberculosis, encephalitis, malaria and leprosy, all of them registering increases recently.

It is also indicated that Mr Reagan's cutbacks of the federal health budget could be transforming the resources that could save the lives of millions of U.S. citizens into MX missiles or Trident submarines.

GRANMA warns that if the infectious situation continues to worsen in the United States, our country will have to give serious consideration to adopting additional measures aimed at checking any possible introduction of viruses of contagious diseases not in existence in Cuba, diseases which could be carried by travelers coming from that country.

Finally, referring to the ill-intentioned charges made against Cuba in this sense by the University of Miami, GRANMA notes: We do not forget that it was that university the one that persisted in assuring -- when the hemorrhagic dengue epidemic was devastating our country -- that it was a case of the benign O type fourth virus and not the second virus, as it really was, in an attempt, certainly suspiciously, to hide the irrefutable fact that an esepcially grave virus of that disease had been introduced into Cuba, a virus which had not been reported at the time in any of the geographic areas with which we were conducting an interchange of travelers or having other types of contact. Who, if not the CIA or Cuba's enemies in the Yankee Government -- the perpetrators of that biological aggression against our fatherland , or which we are convinced -- would be interested in having such scientific opinion? These are our arguments and this is our response to the new impudence of the imperialists.

MILIAN CASTRO DECORATED WITH USSR MEDAL

FL261414 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] In Havana, Arnaldo Milian Castro, member of the party Politburo and agriculture minister, last night was decorated with the Friendship of the Peoples Order which was awarded by the USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Present at the ceremony was Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and FAR minister, other leaders of the party, state and government and members of the diplomatic corps. In a speech at the ceremony, USSR Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev noted that the decoration had been awarded to Milian for his valuable contribution to the friendship bet ween the Cuban and soviet peoples and on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION VISITS ANAP OFFICES

FL252045 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2011 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] A delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has visited the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] national directorate officies where it was received by Juan Jose Leon, alternate member of the Central Committee and vice president of the ANAP. The Vietnamese delegation is headed by Nguyen Ngoc Triu, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and minister of agriculture, and includes senior officials from that sector.

The ANAP vice president gave an extensive briefing to the visitors on the progress achieved by Cuban farmers through adoption of socialist methods of production and explained the development of the cooperative movement and the [high] volume of production achieved by farmers in various areas of agriculture. The meeting between the ANAP vice president and the Vietnamese delegation took place in an atmosphere of camaraderie.

GEN BATISTA SANTANA CLOSES CDR-FAR FRONT SEMINAR

FL250340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] [Begin recording of Division General Sixto Batista Santana] I take this opportunity to convey to you greetings from the minister of the FAR on the occasion of this important analysis meeting and to express our thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which you have organized and carried out your work to advance the tasks of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] FAR front. [end recording]

Thus expressed Div Gen Sixto Batista Santana, alternate member of the Politburo and chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate, in closing the first seminar of that important front, held yesterday at the organization's national directorate offices. The event was the conclusion of a work evaluation process, which was started at the municipal level, was developed at the provincial level and culminated at the national level with in accumulation of experience that will assist in assessing and developing the CDR-FAR Front's future work in all its areas.

Div Gen Sixto Batista Santana said at the closing session that in order to have this front function will, it was of vital importance to learn the details of the deficiencies still outstanding as well as the measures which will yield the desired results according to the objectives defined, and said he considered the event to be of great significance for that single reason.

He said that since its creation in 1980, the CDR-FAR Front had provided systematic attention to the search for ways and means to accomplish the activities proposed in the work plans and to establish precise coordination, which has allowed for the continuing fortification of the ties between the organized masses and the uniformed services. He added that this work ensures a strong rearguard, which helps the FAR to better fulfill the sacred mission of defending the right of the people to work in peace, and the gains of the revolution. In closing he said: [Begin Batista Santana recording] We are certain -- we in the political directorate, the minister of the FAR and Comrade Armando Acosta -- that the tasks assigned will be fulfilled with enthusiam and dedication because, as Comrade Fidel said at the party congress, in the CDR's our people have a combative, enthusiastic, versatile and irreplaceable instrument, which will always support the revolution in all its tasks. Thank you very much and success to you in the coming year. [applause] [end recording]

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH MEETINGS TO BE HELD

FL251128 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] A meeting of experts from socialist countries to prepare the fourth meeting of public health ministers has begun at the Palace of Conventions, simultaneously with the 26th meeting of the World Health Organization. These two meetings will end next Tuesday, 29 March. Welcoming the socialist countries' experts, First Vice Minister of Public Health Julio Tejada said Cuba is honored to host this important meeting, whose main topic is "primary ambulatory medical attention in socialist countries: current state and future." He said that during the rest of the 5-year period an effort will be made to expand still more the scientific and technical cooperation with sister nations as the main goal in guidelines set by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro of transforming the country into a world medical superpower.

VEIGA, USSR AMBASSADOR KATUSHEV HOLD TALKS

FL251300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], has held talks with USSR Ambassador Konstantin Katushev, during which he explained the efforts being made in the face of climatic adversities and outstanding aspects of the recently held 46th CTC national council.

DOMINICAN LEFT DELEGATION HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL230245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A leftist Dominican delegation visiting our country today held a press conference with national and international journalists accredited in Cuba. The delegation comprises members of the Socialist Unity and the united left, which is made up of eleven Dominican organizations.

They explained that they are in this country as part of a tour they are conducting through Central America and the Caribbean to express their solidarity with peoples struggling to gain their liberation or trying to consolidate it.

Another objective of their tour is to meet with mass organizations to enrich their experience. The delegation had previously paid a similar visit to Nicaragua. After explaining the real political situation in their country, the representatives of the Dominican left 1st groups stressed that for many years the leftists in the Dominican Republic were divided, but that today they have an effective link with the masses.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ECONOMY RECORDS 2.5 PERCENT GROWTH FOR 1982

FL251444 Bridgetown CANA in English 1423 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 25, CANA -- The Antigua and Barbuda economy grew last year by 2.5 per cent, slipping from the four per cent of 1981, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs Lester Bird has told Parliament here.

Speaking during a debate of the country's 1982 budget, Mr Bird blamed the 1982 economic performance mainly on a sharp drop in the number of cruise ships calling here. Tourism is Antigua and Barbuda's single largest foreign earner. "The economy of Antigua and Barbuda, relative to the economies of the rest of the world, did moderately well," Mr Bird said, adding that unlike many others, the country had experienced growth in its productive sectors.

Mr Bird said there was a significant decrease in the inflation rate, which fell from 11.5 per cent in 1981 to 4.2 per cent last year. This fall he said had strengthened the E.C. dollar, and he scoffed at rumours that a devaluation of the East Caribbean currency was imminent. As far as this government is concerned, there are no plans to devalue the E.C. dollar, Mr Bird declared.

"Instead of discussing devaluing the E.C. dollar, I am working vigorously to see the launching of the East Caribbean Central Bank, the Antiguan minister said. According to him, the upgrading of the East Caribbean currency authority to a full fledged Central Bank, orginally scheduled for April 2, has been postponed because of disagreement among member territories over the sharing of profits.

Mr Bird declared that if Antigua and Barbuda is to survive this period of economic recession, or minimise its negative impact, nationals will have to clearly prioritize their objectives and focus clearly on what the country does best. He said they must improve the organisational structure around areas of priority and stimulate by all means possible, the adoption of a work ethic.

BAHAMAS

PINDLING DEFENDS BANK SECRECY, REJECTS TREATY

FL252145 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, March 25, CANA-REUTER -- Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling Has defended the Bahamas' bank secrecy laws, under fire by U.S. Government agencies for allegedly shielding criminals, while agreeing that criminal abuses must be curbed.

"We do not believe that bank secrecy laws should be condemned because some abuses have occured in some countries," Pindling said in a speech last night. Rejecting the idea of a bilateral "disclosure" treaty with the United States, he suggested instead "a multilateral initiative to agree on mechanisms or modalities for the exchange of information on (international) criminal activities."

The Bahamas and other Caribbean-area tax havens like the Cayman Islands and Panama have been accused in Washington of providing facilities for the laundering of money and the evasion of U.S. taxes. The United States has been trying to negotiate "mutual assistance" tax treaties with a number of these countries to allow an exchange of information in criminal matters, similar to an agreement reached with Switzerland in 1977.

But analysts note that the economies of many Caribbean-area tax havens are more dependent than Switzerland on offshore banking and secrecy is a vital ingredient in attracting such business. In the Bahamas, banking is the second largest revenue earner after tourism, generating about $100 million a year.

Pindling spoke at a financial conference sponsored by the association of international banks and trust companies in the Bahamas. Pindling said it was not in the Bahamas' interests that criminals and criminal activity be condoned, but added: "An important issue for us is how far to go in striking a proper balance between the right to privacy and confidentiality of banks and their clients and the necessities of law enforcement agencies.

"We aim to achieve and maintain an image of the Bahamas as an international financial center of the highest integrity and reputation." The prime minister said the Bahamas Central Bank had recently established an inspectorate division with the help of the International Monetary Fund.

GRENADA

OFFICIAL NOTE TO OAS PROTESTS U.S. CHARGES

FL252300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2230 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Washington, March 25, CANA -- Grenada has accused U.S. President Ronald Reagan of deliberately mis-representing the use to which the island will put its new international airport now under construction.

Ambassador Dessima Williams, in a note yesterday to the chairman of the permanent council of the Organisation of American States (OAS) here, said Mr Reagan in a broadcast last Wednesday, had misled Americans and the world that the airport, being constructed with Cuban aid, was essentially for military use.

Following is the text of the diplomatic note released here today by the OAS:

Excellency:

I have the honour to address your excellency, at the instruction of my government, to make known the false and misleading statements made about my country by the President of the United States of America Mr Ronald Reagan on the occasion of his address to the nation and to the world at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday March 23, 1983. In this regard, I wish to quote the relevant statements concerning Grenada made by Mr Reagan:

On the small island of Grenada, at the southern end of the Caribbean chain, the Cubans, with Soviet financial backing are building an airfield with a 10,000 foot runway. Grenada doesn't even have an air force. Who is it entended for?

The Caribbean is a very important passageway for our international commerce and military lines of communication. More than half of all American oil imports now pass through. The rapid buildup of Grenada's military potential is unrelated to any conceivable threat to this island country of under 100,000 people and totally at odds with the pattern of other Eastern Caribbean states, most of which are unarmed.

The Soviet-Cuban militarization of Grenada can only be seen as a power projection into this important economic and strategic area in which we are trying to help the governments of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and others in their struggles for democracy against guerrillas supported through Cuba and Nicaragua. [presumably end of quote]

An initial response has been made by our deputy foreign minister and permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr Caldwell Taylor which I quote as follows:

Last night in a nationally televised speech, President Reagan made unfair and unjustifiable references to an international airport now under construction at Point Salines, Grenada. Mr Reagan gave the impression that the Point Salines Airport is massive, that it is intended for military purposes and constitutes a threat to the national security of the United States. It is a pity that the President was not properly briefed. In the June 1982 hearing before the United States Sub-Committee on Inter-American Affairs, a distinguished member of the House Armed Services Committee, who had personally toured the airport site, testified that both the Atlantic fleet commander and the air defence commander have given the assurances that Grenada's airport poses no threat to the United States.

The following table should clear the air:

Country	Physical size	Population	Airport size
Aruba	72 sq miles	60,000	9000 ft
Antigua	108 sq miles	85,000	9000 ft
Barbados	106 sq miles	240,000	11,000 ft
Curacao	178 sq miles	160,000	11187 ft
Grenada	133 sq miles	111,000	9800 ft
		(under construction)	
St Lucia	238 sq miles	120,000	9000 ft

The building of an international airport is an ancient dream of the Grenadian people. At present travel to Grenada is quite difficult since persons going there by air, must go through Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago. Immediately after coming to office in 1979, the new Government of Grenada proclaimed its intention to construct an international airport, an endeavour that has eluded every government over the last thirty years.

It is significant to note that the Government of the United States was the first to be approached by the Government of Grenada in its efforts to secure assistance towards the building of its international airport. Steven Kinzer of the BOSTON GLOBE quotes the former U.S. ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Frank Ortiz, as saying in response to the Grenadian Government's request for assistance from his country: This is not the type of project that the U.S. could pay for.

It must be pointed out that the airport is open to the public and is major tourist attraction. It is not necessary for the President to use aerial photographs. It must also be noted that one U.S. firm, Layne Dredging Ltd. of Miami, Florida, received a contract for some of the airport work which they have already completed.

Discussions are at advanced stages with several airlines, tourism and charter companies for landing rights at the airport. These include companies both in North America and in our region. We welcome talks with the U.S. civil aviation authorities and interested airlines with a view to entering reciprocal arrangements for landing rights. Grenadians at home, New York, Washington, and elsewhere look forward to the completion of their international airport, which represents a great hope for Grenada's development. To say that this modest airport represents a threat to the United States is not only provocative but utterly fatuous.

I request that this note be distributed as a document of the Permanent Council. Accept, excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signed] Dessima Williams Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the OAS.

BISHOP VIEWS 'ATTACKS' AS CHANGED U.S. TACTICS

FL252330 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The Ronald Reagan administration in its attack against the Grenada revolution has leaped from the usual economic and propaganda destabilization to making military allegations against the country. This statement was made by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop at a meeting held for elderly citizens at Butler House last night.

Comrade Bishop said the Reagan administration, in the 4 years of the revolution, had [words indistinct] economic and military destabilization (?perfect) against Grenada. He said the Reagan administration had now taken a completely new form in its attacks. He said, for the first time the Americans are using the (?formulation) of Grenada being a military threat to the national security of the United States. He said this means that the mighty United States intends to teach tiny Grenada a lesson to ensure that the threat is removed.

Comrade Bishop called on (?island vicinities) to continue their deep commitment and tremendous contributions that have been shown toward the revolution.

ARMY REQUESTS BIRD GUNS, AIR RIFLES FOR TRAINING

PA272320 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The Peoples Revolutionary Armed Forces are calling on all Grenadians who may be in possession of bird guns or air rifles to please assist them. Bird guns or air rifles are required to assist in preparing the militia and all our people for the task of defending our beloved homeland in the face of grave military threat which we now face. Those of you who can assist by loaning your bird guns or air rifles to the Revolutionary Armed Forces are asked to call phone number 2265 or 3961, giving your name and address. Please be assured that the armed forces guarantees the full return of the bird guns and air rifles, once the training period is completed. The numbers to call are 2265 or 3961.

COARD CITES REAGAN'S 'LOW CREDIBILITY' IN U.S.

PA272345 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] There is a grey mood of contempt for American President Ronald Reagan within his own country. Speaking to representatives of zones in St Georges today, Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard said that the U.S. leader has achieved low credibility among leading American opinion makers about his recent slanderous attacks on Grenada. The deputy prime minister said leading U.S. journalists and congressmen who had visited Grenada are seeing through Reagan's lies that the international airport is a military base.

He said that Grenadians living in the U.S., regardless of the political persuasion, are angry because of the American President's attack on the international airport, which is very dear to their hearts.

Every Grenadian, he said, wants to return home one day using the international airport instead of going through the hassle of Grantley Adams International in Barbados. Comrade Coard told the zone leaders that even some U.S. politicians belonging to Reagan's Republic Party are moving to stop his mad military spending. Lately the American President's plan to get more money to supply arms to the bloody Salvadoran regime were halted and his military budget cut in half.

The deputy prime minister, recognizing the importance of mobilizing international public opinion, quoted the experience of 2 years ago when the IMF sought to block financial aid for local projects. The efforts of the Americans then was sowed when other IMF member nations came to Grenada's support and the money was granted.

STATION VIEWS U.S. MANEUVERS, PILOT WARNINGS

FL252345 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The warnings given to aircraft flying in the area as a result of United States air maneuvers was still in effect today, an aircraft advisory warnings received yesterday told pilots that due to intensive military operations, including missile firings, flights in the Caribbean area were being affected.

According to officials at the Grenada Ministry of Civil Aviation, the warnings affect flights up to 41,000 feet. The warnings to pilots come as a result of extensive United States military maneuvers in the Caribbean involving American fighter planes, 72 military ships and other military units.

The People's Revolutionary Government has expressed concern that the U.S. military maneuvers are part of the overall plan of provocations against the Grenada revolution. Observers also suggest that the maneuvers are aimed at preparing for a direct military invasion of Grenada. They come against the background of increasing attacks on the Grenada revolution by the United States officials, including President Ronald Reagan himself.

SECURITY FORCES DETAIN 5 MEN ON ILLEGAL ENTRY

FL252225 Bridgetown CANA in English 2209 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 25, CANA -- Grenada's security forces have picked five men who were attempting to enter the country via a beach in the northwestern section of the capital, St Georges. A Government Information Service (GIS) statement received here today did not identify the men, nor say when they were picked up.

The statement quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying that the men were attempting to enter the country and two boats were in the water just off the Grand Mal Beach, "apparently waiting to land". The incident has been reported less than a week after Prime Minister Maurice Bishop placed the country's armed forces on alert and warned civilians to prepare for a military attack from U.S.-backed "counter-revolutionaires".

Grenada said its foreign minister, Unison Whiteman, is now in North America conducting a campaign of diplomatic activities against the alleged invasion plan. The statement said the diplomatic mission was part of the offensive of the People's Revolutionary Government in response to threats made against its national security by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The statement said Prime Minister Bishop explained the importance of mobilising support from international public opinion to thwart aggressive plans.

Bishop said that in one unnamed country which supports Grenada, the head of government had called in the American ambassador for an explanation of the threat against Grenada. Other elements of the Grenada campaign, the statement said, include additional recruitment into the militia, some sections of the police and army, solidarity activities, stepped-up voluntary neighborhood defence work and zonal and parish council meetings.

JAMAICA

THIRD WORLD CAUCUS, GROUP OF 77 ON LOS SIGNING

FL251739 Bridgetown CANA in English 1715 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 25, CANA -- Developing countries have told the United States that they are firmly opposed to its selective application of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). And they have urged Washington and other states which have not done so, to sign the treaty expeditiously.

A declaration issued last night by the Third World Caucus, the Group of 77, did not mention the U.S. by name, but noted "that a state has selectively adopted some of the provisions of the convention, while still rejecting the provisions relating to the international seabed area and its resources which are the common heritage of mankind." The United States three weeks ago declared a 200 mile exclusive economic zone, covering mainland U.S.A. and its possessions in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The 200 mile exclusive economic zone is in keeping with the U.N. Law of the Sea Convention which Washington has refused to sign because of the Reagan administration's opposition to provisions dealing with the exploitation of the resources of the deepseabed in areas outside national jurisdiction. Washington argues that the provisions are discriminatory to private enterprise, and the U.S. is also uncomfortable with elements requiring the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries.

In the declaration the Group of 77 stated "its firm opposition to any action by states which have not signed the convention to apply selectively, whether unilaterally or jointly, the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea while continuing to reject provisions relating to the international seabed area."

It also called on all countries which have not yet done so to expeditiously sign the convention "which reflects the commonly shared expectations of the international community." The group stressed its position that the treaty should be applied "universally and in its entirety as an integral and indivisible whole" and recalled statements on that point by the former president of the Law of the Sea Conference, Singapore's Tommy Koh, and last week by Jamaica's Foreign Minister Hugh Shearer when he spoke out against the U.S. action without calling names. The United States has led a few western countries in opposition to the treaty and has raised the possibility of operating a so-called "mini treaty" among themselves.

A preparatory commission, which is to pave the way for the establishment of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which will administer the convention, and a tribunal to deal with disputes, is now having its first meeting in Kingston.

The session opened on March 15, and since then delegates have been working to find consensus on a package which would include the commission's chairman, the chairman of subsidary groups and rapportuers to form a bureau, plus the framework within which the commission will carry out its task. Most delegates expect that this work should be completed by early next week. How the preparatory commission applies the convention to the functional bodies could determine whether the U.S. and others can be drawn into the treaty.

ST. VICENTE AND THE GRENADINES

LEFTIST PARTY CONDEMNS NICARAGUAN INVASION

FL251815 Bridgetown CANA in English 1611 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, March 25, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines' small leftist opposition party, the United Peoples Movement (UPM) has condemned Monday's invasion of Nicaragua by a group of right-wing guerrillas, whom it described as "the remnants of the Somoza regime."

UPM said the attack was another move against the entire region's struggle for justice, and announced that it stood squarely behind the people of Nicaragua as they rose to repel the invaders. Somoza was overthrown by the leftist Sandinista regime in 1979. In a statement published here today in the party organ, JUSTICE, the UPM called on the government of St Vincent and the Grenadines and other regional governments to demand peace in the region.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

STEEL COMPANY GETS LARGE CONTRACT FROM FRG

FL250310 Bridgetown CANA in English 2250 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 24, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago's iron and steel company Iscott has been awarded a contract to export 10,000 tonnes of wire rods to West Germany next month, an official release said. The contract is the largest single order obtained by the company to date. Iscott also reported that an order of 30,000 tonnes of rods was also expected to be made to the same Hamburg customer and shipped in stages later this year. The company did not disclose the value of the contracts.

The release quoted an Iscott marketing spokesman as saying that "in the steel industry, and specially at this time when the world market is depressed, an order of this size in the European market is noteworthy." "This is a positive sign, given the level of the unused capacity in the European market, the winning of the order to Europe was almost totally due to Iscott's high quality wire rods," the spokesman said.